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SOVIET UNION

CHERNOBYL INCIDENT

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FBIS DAILY REPORT
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Blix, Rosen Continue Visit, Hold Press Conference

Visit Chernobyl Area

LD081721 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA, who is in our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government, has visited Kiev. Today he toured the area of the Chernobyl AES. With him were Comrade Petrosyants, chairman of the State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy; Comrade Gurenko, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR; Comrade Konstantinov, deputy director general of the IAEA; and Rosen, director of the Department of Nuclear Safety of the IAEA. Explanations were given by Academician Comrade Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Comrade Sidorenko, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Safety in the USSR Atomic Power Industry.

More on Visit to Area

LD091303 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — The IAEA officials who had arrived in the USSR in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station had "an opportunity to get the picture of the accident during very frank and open talks," Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said at a press conference here today.

He said that the IAEA officials had visited Kiev, where they had had talks with Stanislav Gurenko, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine, Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, and Professor Viktor Sidorenko, deputy chairman of the Committee for Atomic Power and Safety. Velikhov and Sidorenko are supervising the removal of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

Hans Blix said that they had been taken by helicopter over the city of Chernobyl 18 kilometres outside the atomic power station and over the station itself and that they had viewed the damaged unit from a distance of 800 metres.

Blix Comments on Tour of Site

LD081856 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 8 May 86

[Report and interview with Hans Blix IAEA general director; Blix remarks in English with superimposed Russian translation — from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA, who is in our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government, has visited Kiev. Today he spent some time in the area of the Chernobyl atomic power station. [video shows Blix climbing out of a helicopter on a landing strip. He is wearing dark green overalls and a white cap and has a broad smile on his face throughout the interview. Three other men leave the helicopter with him, two of them wearing white gloves in addition to the above-mentioned garments. Blix's interpreter introduces him to the "Ukrainian TV" film crew]

[Unnamed correspondent] Mr Blix, you have just flown around the site of the Chernobyl atomic power station accident. What is your opinion? What do you have to say on the subject?

[Blix] Well, we have seen the site from the air and we have seen that a little smoke is still coming up from the damaged part. We have also seen that there is a lot of activity to contain the reactor and to keep it under control. And we have also been informed by the competent persons about this work.

[Correspondent] What can you say about the intensiveness of the work?

[Blix] Well, they have evidently had very heavy work to do in the past 2 weeks and have been successful and we hope that they will continue to stabilize the situation.

Sees Reactor From 800 Meters Away

LD091127 Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — The director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, said today that he had been able to see the Chernobyl nuclear power station from a distance of 800 meters and that there was a good deal of activity under way there to keep the reactor under control.

Speaking at a new conference in the Press Center of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, he said competent officials from Soviet organizations had provided him with detailed information about the work being done.

Blix informed the attending Soviet and foreign newsmen of the main provisions of a communique on the results of his stay in the Soviet Union. The news conference was also addressed by Morris Rosen, director of the IAEA Nuclear Safety Division, who gave the reporters the details of the Chernobyl accident and the measures being taken to deal with its consequences.

Rosen Says Levels 'Stabilizing'

LD091143 Moscow TASS in English 1123 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — At a press conference in Moscow today for Soviet and foreign correspondents, the IAEA Director of Nuclear Safety Division Morris Rosen mentioned his flight yesterday on board a helicopter at a distance of some 800 metres from the damaged 4th unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

"There is relatively little radioactive release from the 4th unit", he said. "The situation appears to be stabilizing and radioactive reading, taken from the helicopter, confirms this conclusion". He added that no damage had been caused to the safety arrangements of the 3rd unit.

Answering questions he also said that "temperature readings are decreasing" and that infrared studies showed that there were "no large hot-spot areas" at the station.

Referring to "a small amount of smoke emanating from the unit" he said that whereas graphite fire has a dark colour this smoke was light grey.

Morris Rosen also noted that the radiation level in the Kiev reservoir was normal throughout the period following the accident at the Chernobyl station.

Says 204 'Affected by Radiation'
LD091349 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — Morris Rosen, director of the Nuclear Safety Division of the International Atomic Energy Agency, today gave at a press conference in Moscow a provisional evaluation of the causes and consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

So far there are only hypotheses regarding the specific reasons for the accident. Research and detailed analysis are under way. Fire in the fourth unit of the station caused extensive damage in the reactor itself and the reactor core, resulting in radioactive releases beyond the nuclear power station area. The chain reaction automatically stopped at the time of the accident. This is confirmed by the fact that medical examination of persons affected showed no evidence of high neutron flux exposure.

The work of fire teams was complicated by the fact that neither water nor chemicals could be used. Firemen and some nuclear power station personnel were among those injured by radiation. Most residents in adjacent areas were indoors at the time of the accident thus reducing their exposure.

In the early morning of the 26th of April monitoring equipment registered increased radioactivity and reported this. Evacuation began on the 27th of April, starting with women and children. Up to 48,000 people were evacuated from Chernobyl and other locations within a 30-kilometre radius. As a preventive measure, potassium iodine tablets were widely distributed inside as well as outside the 30-km zone.

204 persons, including nuclear power station personnel and fire fighters, were affected by radiation from 1st degree to 4th degree, 18 persons being in the 4th degree. All 204 persons were hospitalized in Moscow and treated medically. In some cases bone marrow transplants were performed.

The radioactive releases from the damaged unit have been significantly reduced by shielding and neutron absorbing material — sand, boron, clay, dolomite and lead — dropped from helicopters over the reactor, resulting in decreasing radioactivity levels in the 30-km zone.

Rosen: 'Temperatures Remain High'
LD091359 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — The director of the International Atomic Energy Agency's department for nuclear safety, Morris Rosen, said today that "necessary shift personnel work on the site (of the Chernobyl nuclear power station) to keep the undamaged reactors in safe shut-down conditions".

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow, he added: The third reactor adjacent to the fourth was not damaged in the accident, and its safety systems for cooling are functioning."

"The damaged reactor suffered some fire in parts of the graphite. These fires have been extinguished but temperatures remain high," he said. "The aim is to encase the whole fourth unit in concrete and work has begun to place a concrete foundation under the reactor."

"Maximum radiation level within the 30-kilometer zone has been 10-15 millirem/hour," Rosen said. "By the 5th of May it had decreased to 2-3 millirem/hour. On the 8th of May it had dropped to a maximum of 0.15 at the perimeter of the zone. The level of radioactivity in Kiev's water reservoir was within normal limits at all times."

'Very Frank, Open' Talks Cited
LD091054 Moscow TASS in English 1050 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — "We had very frank and open talks" with senior Soviet officials and "agreed on certain actions", the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix said referring to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

He spoke at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists at the Press Centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. Hans Blix visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Government.

It was agreed, he said, that the Soviet side would "continuously release data to the IAEA" as of today and that Soviet specialists would come to Vienna for a post-accident analysis in order to assist IAEA member-states to learn from this accident and thus to further improve nuclear power safety.

Blix Asked About Causes of Chernobyl
LD091109 Moscow TASS in English 1055 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — Today, the last day of his visit to the USSR, Hans Blix, the IAEA director general, held a press conference for Soviet and foreign correspondents.

Asked whether the information furnished by the Soviet side concerning the Chernobyl accident was extensive and exhaustive, Hans Blix said: "Emphatically yes".

When a question was put about the causes of the accident, Hans Blix gave the floor to the IAEA director of the Nuclear Safety Division Morris Rosen to answer it. "There are many guesses", Morris Rosen said, but it is "much more prudent to wait" for results of further analysis.

Blix on Smoke, Major Work at Reactor
HK090052 Hong Kong AFP in English 0038 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 9 (AFP) — International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Chief Hans Blix said Thursday night that he saw "a little smoke" coming from a damaged reactor and "major work" still underway at the crippled Chernobyl Soviet nuclear power plant when he flew over the site earlier in the day.

Soviet authorities issued conflicting reports about whether the fire at Chernobyl was still burning 13 days after the nuclear disaster there, and a Western diplomat said the evacuation of the nearby town had only been completed two days earlier, leaving thousands of inhabitants exposed to high radiation for more than a week.

Meanwhile, the 12-nation European Economic Community (EEC) suspended meat and some animal imports from seven East European countries because of possible radioactive contamination.

In an interview shown on Soviet television shortly after Mr Blix flew over Chernobyl in a helicopter, the IAEA's director-general said he had seen "a little smoke" escaping from a damaged reactor.

After the trip, he told Soviet journalists at the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, 130 kms (80 miles) away, that he had seen "major work" underway but that authorities "are controlling" the situation.

"It's obvious that during the past two weeks, work has been carried out successfully (at Chernobyl). We hope the situation will stabilize in the future," Mr Blix said.

More than 1,300 doctors and medical workers, assisted by 240 ambulances, had been working in recent days as "during wartime" to rescue residents from the contaminated region, the Soviet news agency TASS said. Soviet reports have said two people were killed and some 200 hospitalized as a result of the accident, believed to have been caused by a chemical explosion. (The Yugoslav news agency TANJUG reported that a third person died Thursday morning in a Soviet hospital.) Urgent cases were taken to the main hospital in Kiev and specialized clinics there, TASS said in a major report from special envoys at the site.

Without specifying the total number of people evacuated, TASS described one case — "the village of Peskovka which took in more than 2,000 people who had left the danger zone."

Eminent Soviet specialists had arrived from Moscow and Leningrad to help in the rescue work, TASS said, including the vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences. TASS did not mention U.S. specialists Gale and Teraski who had gone to Moscow to do bone marrow transplants on people worst hit by radiation.

"Those workers at the power station and firemen who had suffered worst in the accident were transferred by plane to Moscow," TASS said.

The government newspaper *IZVESTIYA* earlier reported that the fire was still smouldering at Chernobyl and indicated that authorities faced serious difficulties in containing the after-effects of the disaster.

(In Bonn, an Interior Ministry spokesman said West German nuclear experts feared the fused core of a reactor at the plant — which has four reactors — might be boring into the earth after having destroyed the building's concrete foundations.)

But the premier of the Ukrainian Republic, Alexander Liyashko, told visiting foreign journalists in Kiev that the disabled reactor was "no longer burning." Its temperature had dropped to around 300 degrees centigrade (575 Fahrenheit), and radioactivity levels "continue to drop."

The fire that ravaged the fourth reactor at the power station reached the roof of a building protecting the third reactor before it was put out, the newspaper *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA* reported in Moscow. It said 17 firemen were hospitalized and 50 "platoons" of firemen had been sent to the site from Kiev and the surrounding region. It did not report any damage to the third reactor.

(In Brussels, a spokesman for the EEC Executive Commission said the community had suspended until May 31 all meat imports, as well as those of live cows and pigs, from seven Eastern European countries due to possible contamination from radioactive fallout from the stricken Soviet nuclear plant.

(The ban, to start on Saturday, affected imports from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia, but not East Germany.

(EEC governments are to rule shortly on other items — including sheep, fowl, fresh dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables and freshwater fish.)

The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia strongly protested the ban, TASS saying EEC reports of contamination were "inventions," and Yugoslav authorities saying the decision was not based on official Yugoslav radiation levels.

Blix Emphasizes Objective Reporting
LD091202 Moscow TASS in English 1155 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — At a one-and-a-half hour press conference here today for Soviet and foreign correspondents the IAEA director general Hans Blix emphasised the "importance of objective reporting" when asked to comment on coverage in the West of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

A correspondent's duty is "not to sensationalise" but to report, he said. However, he went on, accidents at nuclear power plants are very difficult things to write about since this involves extremely complicated technical and scientific problems. One needs "first to understand them," he added.

Announcement: USSR Goods Pose No Radiation Hazards
PM091124 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 May 86 Second Edition p 5

["TASS announcement — TASS headline]

[Text] — Fabrications that Soviet export goods and means of transportation are hazardous because of their "radioactive contamination" have been launched in the West in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station. A number of West European countries have taken measures to restrict the import of food products and other goods from the USSR and some European CMEA countries.

Such actions undermine the purposes of international agreements on trade, on economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation concluded between those countries and the USSR and are not in keeping with the generally accepted practice of solving problems arising in international trade.

Competent state bodies of the USSR have taken and continue taking the necessary effective measures. Soviet goods and means of transportation do not pose radiation hazards either to the population of our country, or to citizens of other states.

Ukrainian Official 9 May: AES Fire 'Is Continuing'
AU090812 Paris AFP in English 0807 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpts] Kiev, Soviet Union, May 9 (AFP) — The fire at Chernobyl "is continuing" a senior Soviet official said here Friday, in remarks that countered earlier statements that the blaze at the stricken nuclear plant had been put out.

"The extinction of the fire" was still being carried out, said Ivan Plyushch, an official responsible for the Kiev region. He added that radioactivity leaking from the damaged reactor had dropped from between 180-190 Roentgens on Thursday to 113 Roentgens Friday.

Mr. Plyushch's remarks ran counter to a statement here Thursday by Alexander Lyashko, premier of the Ukrainian Republic, that the plant's disabled No 4 reactor was "no longer burning."

Soviet technicians have dumped tons of boron, lead and sand onto the plant in an effort to form a protective shield. Published reports in the West say that the molten reactor core is burning through the building's concrete foundations.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian minister for health, Anatoliy Romanenko, and Kiev Mayor Valentin Zgurski, told journalists that radioactivity at Kiev was falling and was currently being recorded at 0.15 milliroentgens, which they said was a "normal" level. However, they said that 250,000 Kiev children aged from 7 to 14 would be allowed to leave the city next Thursday to go to holiday camp. They denied that it was an evacuation, saying it was only a step to bring forward annual school holidays by a week.

Parents who do not wish to send their children to camp have been advised to send them elsewhere, while parents of children of preschool age have been authorised to leave Kiev, they said.

Ukrainian Premier: Reactor 'No Longer Burning'
AU082014 Paris AFP in English 2012 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpts] Kiev, Soviet Union, May 8 (AFP) — Aleksandr Lyashko, premier of the Ukrainian Republic, Thursday told visiting foreign journalists that the disabled nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was "no longer burning." Mr. Lyashko said the reactor's temperature had "gone down" to around 300 degree Celsius (575 F) and that radioactivity levels "continue to drop." "This means that it is no longer burning," he said.

Mr. Lyashko said that a few hours after the accident, Moscow authorities had only been told that there had been an explosion at Chernobyl. It was only two days later, on April 28, that they were informed of the magnitude of the disaster, he added.

"The situation was getting worse and worse. Moscow was warned on April 28. An enquiry commission arrived on that day. It was a very difficult situation which was evolving into an unpredictable manner," the Ukrainian premier said.

Mr. Lyashko revealed that a total of 84,000 people had now been evacuated from an area 30 kms (19 miles) from the disabled plant.

The day after the accident, the evacuation had affected an area 10 kilometers (six miles) from the plant, including the town of Pripyat, he noted.

The minister said that people had been taken to sites 70 to 130 kilometers (45 to 80 miles south of the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, in a "well organised" operation that includes daily medical checkups and transfers to hospital as soon as abnormal radioactivity levels were detected. He said two people had been killed, 204 injured, included 18 seriously, all staff of the plant.

Mr. Lyashko denied that the accident was the result of a human error, saying it occurred as, following a technical intervention, the power of the reactor had dropped from its usual 1,000 megawatts to only 200 megawatts.

New medical installations have been built for the evacuees, Mr. Lyashko said, adding that the makeshift facilities were manned by 230 teams of doctors brought from around the Ukraine. A military medical unit also was at hand, he said.

Mr. Lyashko said that a 3.2 billion liter water reservoir north of Kiev, itself 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of the Chernobyl plant, was checked daily for radioactivity.

"Luckily," he said, "the quality of the water has not suffered," adding however that preventive measures such as drilling new wells had been taken.

He said radioactivity levels in the air outside the 30 kilometer (18 mile) evacuated area posed no danger, but ground radioactivity inside the zone was "high."

Rosen Confirms Reactor Shutdown

LD091225 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — "The chain reaction (at the Chernobyl nuclear power station) automatically stopped at the time of the accident," Morris Rosen, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency's nuclear safety division, told a news conference here today. Together with IAEA Director-General Hans Blix he had visited the area of the accident.

Rosen said the fact that the reactor had been shut down "is confirmed by the fact that medical examination of persons affected showed no evidence of high neutron flux exposure."

He denied rumors of the third reactor having been damaged in the accident, saying: "Its safety systems for cooling are functioning."

"The level of radioactivity in Kiev's water reservoir was within normal limits at all times," Rosen said.

Visit Concludes 9 May

LD091305 Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), today left the Soviet Union. He had paid a visit to the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Communique Issued on Visit

LD091029 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 9 May 86

["Communique on Blix Visit to USSR" — TASS item identifier]

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS — On the invitation from the USSR Government the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix visited the Soviet Union from 5 to 9 May 1986.

He was accompanied by the Deputy Director-General L.V. Konstantinov and the Director of the Nuclear Safety Division M. Rosen.

H. Blix and the IAEA specialists accompanying him were received by the Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers B.E. Shcherbina, at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy.

In the course of the visit H. Blix and the specialists accompanying him were provided information pertaining to the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station (NPS). Ways of further enhancing nuclear power safety by strengthened international cooperation and increasing the IAEA role in this area were discussed.

The Soviet experts gave the IAEA representatives detailed information about the accident at the Unit 4 of the Chernobyl NPS and about the measures taken for the elimination of consequences of the accident.

H. Blix was informed that necessary operational personnel are present at the three undamaged Chernobyl NPS units, which are shut down.

H. Blix and his colleagues accepted the invitation to visit the Chernobyl NPS area, where they received additional information as to on-site conditions and measures being taken for the elimination of consequences of the accident.

In response to the request from the director-general of the IAEA, the Soviet side expressed its willingness to provide, as soon as it is available, information on the accident, to be discussed at a meeting of nuclear safety experts in order to assist IAEA member-states to learn from this accident and thus to further improve nuclear power safety.

The Soviet side is ready to provide the IAEA with information on the level of radiation from a station located at the distance of 60 km from the NPS and from several other stations located along the Western border of the USSR; the agency will be distributing this information to national radiation protection authorities concerned.

The Soviet side stated that the accident will not affect the implementation of nuclear power development plans in the Soviet Union.

Ways of further improving nuclear power safety were discussed as well as international measures which may be usefully developed within the framework of the IAEA in order to minimize possible consequences of nuclear power accidents. Both parties noted that such measures may include the development of a timely warning mechanism on radioactivity releases which could affect areas beyond national boundaries, provision of information on background level of radioactivity, and the introduction of possible additional technical measures in nuclear facilities for the prevention of accidents and reducing their consequences.

Both parties stressed the importance of IAEA activities, those directed to nuclear safety as well as those directed to ensure a totally peaceful utilization of nuclear power.

ORF: Government Admits Inhabitants Fleeing Kiev

AU081411 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1400 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpt] Moscow: The government has admitted for the first time that Kiev inhabitants are fleeing the city because of the nuclear power plant accident.

Additional trains and planes are being made available to enable inhabitants of this area to leave. Hundreds of schoolchildren with their mothers have arrived today in Moscow from Kiev. Instances of poisoning with medicines have been reported. Authorities speak about panic reactions. Certain people believed that they could protect themselves against radiation by taking medicines.

Mr. Lyashko also said that "farm work has been curtailed" outside the danger zone, hinting that ground-level radiation there also was high. "We believe that we're eliminating the after-effects of the accident well," the Ukrainian premier said, adding that the Chernobyl plant "in the term" would resume operations. He also said that the disaster would not stop the construction of nuclear power plants in the Soviet Union.

More on Premier's Comments

LD081803 Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Kiev May 8 TASS — Aleksandr Lyashko, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR, met on May 8 with a group of foreign journalists, who arrived in Kiev.

He briefed the newsmen on the measures being taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. He pointed out that the situation in the area of the power plant is under control. It was reported that at present the temperature in the damaged unit of the power plant has reduced down to 300 degrees centigrade. This is an indication that the process of burning in the reactor has been ended.

There is no threat to the health of the population; the economy of the Kiev region is functioning at a stable rate. At the same time, the attention of the journalists was drawn to the fact that some Western news agencies have launched a slanderous campaign around the accident aimed at deceiving the world public and distracting its attention from the key issues pertaining to an improvement of the international climate.

The chairman of the Council of Minsters of the republic has answered questions of the journalists. Present at the meeting was Yuriy Izrael, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control.

AFP Cites IZVESTIYA: Fire Still Smouldering

AU081611 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 8 (AFP) — The fire at the crippled Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Ukraine has not yet been totally put out, the government newspaper *IZVESTIYA* reported Thursday.

It praised the courage of those "who, taking risks, are striving to eliminate the after-effects of the accident and to put out the fire which is still smouldering."

"There are circumstances in which to carry out one's duty amounts to a feat. This is the situation facing those who stayed in the Cherobyl nuclear power plant," the daily added.

IZVESTIYA also blasted the lack of initiative shown by local Ukrainian officials during the first hours which followed the April 26 meltdown at Chernobyl, the world's worst nuclear accident. "Why hide it? In that exceptional situation, some workers did not show enough firmness, nor radiness to take decisions," *IZVESTIYA* said.

Similar criticisms were made Wednesday by the daily *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA*, which particularly denounced delays in evacuating the Chernobyl area population.

A Western diplomatic source here said Thursday that the evacuation from Chernobyl, a town located only 18 kms (11 miles) from the stricken plant, had been completed only two days ago.

The paper also revealed that the accident had shown that "sanitary and epidemiological services assigned to nuclear power plants have no contact with services operating outside and are responsible for monitoring the quality of the air, water and soil in their surrouding area."

"It is too early to draw major lessons, but the lesson cost us dearly," the paper said, quoting officials of the Kiev Communist Party.

It also said "strict safety checks" had been ordered in airports, train and bus stations in kiev, located 130 kms (80 miles) from Chernobyl.

All passangers leaving Kiev receive medical checks while the quality of foodstuffs, particularly farm products, is tested "according to very strict norms," *IZVESTIYA* added.

Health Minister: Radiation No Danger to Health

LD082150 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1915 GMT 8 May 86

[Talk by Anatoliy Yefimovich Romanenko, minister of health of the Ukrainian SSR; in Russian — live or recorded]

[Text] Esteemed comrades, a couple of days ago Ukrainian television and radio presented me with the opportunity to tell you of the radiation situation in connection with the accident [avariya] at the Chernobyl AES, and to express certain recommendations of our ministry about the efficient labor and rest conditions of the population of the city of Kiev and of Kiev Oblast.

I can report that since the time which has elapsed since my previous speech, the situation has noticeably improved. The level of the background radiation is gradually falling. At the present time it is within the norms recommended by national and international bodies, and does not present a danger to the health of the population, including children.

In the last few days about 20,000 inhabitants of the city of Kiev, including more than 5,500 children, have been examined in educational establishments of the ministry; in no one person was there a discovery of any change to their state of health which one could connect with the effect of radioactive substances. Nonetheless, we consider it untimely to renounce the recommended precautionary measures.

I would like to recall, comrades, that our main enemy in the present situation is dust [pyl] as a possible carrier of radioactive substances which fell on the locality in previous days. Direct measurements show that in regions where intensive washing of

streets, courtyards and squares is being carried out, the background radiation is several times lower. In production premises and flats apartments, where damp cleaning is frequently carried out, practically no discovery is being made of an increase in the usual [obychnogo] level of radioactivity which always exists because of cosmic particles and radiation from various materials and so forth. One ought not to underestimate the observance of rules of personal hygiene — a daily shower and washing hair.

In the last few days there have been less children playing on the streets and in the courtyards of the city. It is correct to say this and although today there is virtually no direct danger of their being irriadiated, let's look after them first and foremost, and again, primarily protect them from dust. It is understandable that children don't very much like to live in conditions of a complete absence of being outdoors. But this is not necessary. They want to be out in the open air, so let them play, but not as usual as in good weather from morning until night, but just for the odd hour, and they should not kick balls around on dusty areas. On this subject, parents have fully understandable concerns and worries, including that of children's summer vacations. Over recent years, a certain area of pioneer camps, children's sanatoria, and labor and leisure camps has been established. Now, taking into account the situation that has arisen, amendments are being made to the organization of school holidays, [words indistinct] in order to ensure a proper rest for all children from Kiev city and oblast, in the most favorable conditions.

A decision has been adopted by the Ukraine Council of Ministers to organize the work and leisure of the student youth and to improve the health [ozdorovleniye] of the children of Kiev City and Oblast in 1986. It has been decided to end the school year in the general education schools of the rayons in Kiev Oblast which have accepted evacuated schoolchildren by 15 May. The (?children) are then to be sent to work, leisure and pioneers camps in southern oblasts.

In Kiev, the school year for the first seven classes will also end by 15 May. The pupils of these classes will be sent to summer vacation camps which have been prepared, and to health care establishments in other oblasts of the republic. For the senior classes of schools and other education establishments, summer vacations will be conducted as before. Children will be sent to pioneer, work, and leisure camps in a well-organized manner, and for this purpose an adequate number of trains and vehicles are being set aside.

All this work of organizing summer rest for students has been entrusted to the republic's ministries and departments, the Kiev Oblispolkom and Gorispolkom, the Kiev Trade Union Council, and the republic's Komsomol Central Committee.

Comrades, in conclusion I would like to stress once again that all matters connected with the influence of the environment on the health of the population are constantly being monitored by the Ukrainian Republican Ministry of Health.

Health Official Reviews Consequences

LD081843 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1630 GMT 8 May 86

[Interview with Professor Viktor Knizhnikov, chief Soviet public health officer, by Moscow correspondent Stefan Simak; questions and answers in Russian fading into superimposed Slovak translation; time and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Simak] Many people today compare the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident with a nuclear bomb explosion. Can you tell us what really happened and what are the consequences of the explosion?

[Knizhnikov] There are considerable differences between the explosion of a nuclear bomb and the recent accident in Chernobyl. When a bomb explodes plutonium or uranium divides immediately. No such process took place in the reactor. Most probably, it was a thermal explosion which occurred after steam overheating as a result of a technical fault or incorrect proceedings by attending staff. Therefore, the situation after the accident in the reactor was different to what would have happened after a nuclear explosion. Pollution of the atmosphere was smaller and the composition of radioactive substances was different. Similarly to the reactor accidents in England and in the United States the greatest danger for people is formed by the fundamental nucleide Iodine 131.

[Simak] Soviet health workers have examined the evacuated people from the vicinity of the nuclear power station. What are the results of these tests?

[Knizhnikov] Within a 30 kilometer radius, which includes the power workers town, the greatest danger for people lies in the external radiation by radioactive substances that have escaped from the reactor. Naturally, radiation there was many times higher than in Kiev, which is 130 kilometers away. The population from distant neighborhoods was exposed to lower radiation than in normal medical tests involving the use of nuclear isotopes. Regular blood analyses and other thorough check-ups on the people who were in the vicinity of the power station. [sentence as received] With the exception of 204 workers at the nuclear power station we did not find — and, in theory, could not find — any changes in the organisms of the other people.

[Simak] People are concerned that their health could be jeopardized by the consumption of some foodstuffs. What do you think?

[Knizhnikov] Some long-term health danger might arise after the consumption of Iodine 131 linked to milk or or fresh vegetables. Therefore we adopted certain procedures in the USSR. They are 10 times stricter than the norms observed in England in 1957. Milk from cows which grazed in the affected area is sent for processing. Milk products, especially cheese completely lose their iodine content. If additional contamination of the air and soil does not take place, we will harvest the fall yield of agricultural produce without concern. Iodine 131 disintegrates in 8 and 1/2 days. This means that in 10 days not only will we not be talking about danger but we will not find such danger in foodstuff either.

Army Air Missions Continue Over Chernobyl

LD082141 Moscow TASS in English 2127 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 8 TASS — TASS special correspondent Vladimir Zhukovskiy, Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko report from the area of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant:

Major General of the Air Force Nikolay Antoshkin was ordered on the memorable night of April 26 to fly on a mission, which subsequently determined in a large measure the outcome of the battle waged by people against the elements in Chernobyl. It was then that the general started the battle against the invisible, and therefore the most perfidious enemy. It was a battle for life, in the name of life.

When due to the titanic efforts of the firemen the blaze on the destroyed unit was smothered, it became necessary to close the source of danger, to choke it up, block it, and thus "seal" it. It could be done only from the air. And then it was for the airmen to act. It turned out that people the world over have not yet learned to combat such accidents; there is no specific experience and no specific measures for the resolution of such problems. Some "experts" advised that the site of the accident be covered with sand. Thanks for the advice. But by that time courageous Soviet pilots had already flown hundreds of missions and "bombed" in unbelievably difficult conditions the crater emanating heat.

It can be said now that several days have already passed since the inner part of the unit has been reliably choked up with a huge flaky pie of sand and other materials...more than five thousand tons of them are in that stopper. And all of them were thrown down from helicopters.

On the first day of the accident neither the airmen nor, for that matter, anybody at the station knew for sure what the radiation situation was. Neither did General Antoshkin know about it.

The first missions, Antoshkin recalls, were the most difficult ones. Imagine a crater of a limited size, to which one first had to choose the shortest way possible and then try and accurately drop a sand bag in a matter of seconds.

The pilots showed top class in that peaceful "bombing" exercise. On the first day they dropped their "cargo" 93 times, on the second day — 186 times, and hit the target accurately every time.

The pilots thought that dropping one by one a single sand bag was not the best idea, and then they invented packages, tied together six-eight sand bags. They began using makeshift nets. To be able to throw such a package through a helicopter hatch the pilots themselves designed a self-opening lock. It was necessary to load the helicopters as soon as possible. Everybody on the take-off ground was asked to assist, General Antoshkin said, and nobody refused to do the work.

Only when the opening of the reactor unit was shut down, a TASS correspondent was allowed to fly over it to reproduce the picture of what had happened there only a few days before.

We took off from the ground on an outskirt of Pripyat. Below we could see a sunlit, amazingly beautiful city with straight streets, beautiful public gardens and cosy backyards. But the city is abandoned.

We were flying at a speed of 140 kilometres an hour, yet it was most clearly seen that the crater of the damaged unit was closely "sealed". We knew that most important technical work was in progress at the bloc and under it to eliminate the consequences of the accident. But from above the opening panorama was serene. There were no flames, no smoke, nothing disquieting.

But in the ear-phones we could understand what was happening in the air when "bombing" was done. The voice of an invisible traffic controller led us to the target: "There are one hundred metres, fifty, thirty, ten, five, three, two, one metre before the target, drop the cargo". This is done with the assistance of a monitoring plane equipped with instruments taking helicopters over the crater. And today too Army helicopters fly several missions a day over the station.

TASS Cites Foreign Reactions to Chernobyl Aftermath

LD081222 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 8 TASS — A spokesman for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has told a press conference that the IAEA had been informed by the Soviet side about the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station and that the USSR always cooperated closely with the agency. He expressed confidence that such cooperation would be continued in the future.

On the radiation situation in Europe, the IAEA spokesman said that he did not view it as dangerous to human health.

Friedrich Zimmermann, interior minister of the FRG, in his speech broadcast on television and radio, said, in part, "according to available information, there has not existed, nor exists now any danger. The level of radioactivity, heightened for some time in the atmosphere, lowered and became normal in many places."

In turn, Jieth Smeth, Belgium's secretary of state for the environment and social emancipation, reported that the radiation level in Belgium was practically normal.

The Danish newspaper *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* published an interview with H.L. Giorup, department head at the Atomic Research Centre in Rise, who said that the mass media and the population overestimated the danger of the Chernobyl accident to the health of the Danes. "The radiation level was only 10 per cent higher than normal," he said. "That is 100,000 times lower than the safe level."

Radiation safety experts had a meeting at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO). According to them, radioactive substances over the European Continent cleared as of May 6, while most of the short-lived radioactive elements decayed. Many measures, recommended at the earliest phase of the incident, were no longer necessary.

It was noted at the press conference that the coverage of the incident by the Western mass media generated an undesirable reaction incommensurate to the real extent of danger.

The scientists pointed out in this connection that there were no reasons for recommending any restriction on imports from East European countries, including the Soviet Union.

On the noisy propaganda campaign launched by the Western mass media, including American radio stations, in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl power plant, the French *L'HUMANITE* wrote today, "One can hardly remember the 'radio voices' spreading such a great diversity of rumours. The Soviet people are undoubtedly concerned, but they are calm."

Medical experts and spokesmen for radiological control services in Britain, interviewed by the British television companies, BBC and ITV, pointed out that some rise in radioactivity posed no threat to the health of the population.

The GDR press has published an anouncement by the State Committee for Atomic Safety and Protection From Radiation saying that the radiation situation, which emerged in the GDR's territory as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, did not and does not constitute any perils to the health of citizens of the GDR.

Speaking on Bulgarian television, L. Shindarov, first deputy minister of public health of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and I. Pandev, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, said that there were no perils to human health. The radiation situation in Bulgaria will completely come to normal within the next few days.

The Polish PAP agency has issued a report by the Government commission on the results of the recent radiological measurements all over that country's territory. According to findings of experts, the degree of contamination of the air has considerably reduced and returned to normal. The commission said that there is no ground to believe rumours about the alleged contamination of drinking water. Such rumours were set afloat with the aim of deliberate misinformation of the population.

Further Reportage on Life in Surrounding Areas

Resettlement Proceeding Smoothly

LD081728 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 8 May 86

[A. Zhuk video report; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] We filmed this report in Khoyniki Rayon of Gomel Oblast, which is very close to the zone of the Chernobyl AES. Enterprises and organizations are operating normally. People are engaged in their work. In the kolkhoz fields the machines are sowing the last hectares with spring crops. Livestock has been put out into their summer pasture. [video shows busy streets, seed-drills in the fields, and a large herd of cattle]

But, of course, there have been changes too in the life of the rayon. The population has been evacuated from its southern part. Inhabitants evacuated from the Novaya Zhizn Kolkhoz have been accommodated at the Oktyabr Kolkhoz.

[Video next shows interview with D.M. Demichev, first secretary of the Khoyniki raykom.] [Demichev] I would like to say thank you to our people — to those who have been resettled and also those who have received our people. The resettlement took place in a well-organized way and smoothly. Now we are already emerging from the difficult position in which the rayon has found itself. Literally over the last few days — over the first 6 days of May — the rayon has not reduced the production of animal produce from the 1985 level. Also, over these 6 days we have increased milk production by 10 percent. Despite the fact that four of our kolkhozes and sovkhozes find themselves in a temporarily difficult position, the situation is already becoming more stable. The party organization is functioning in the new conditions. Joint sessions of rural soviets, at which the deputies are discussing the tasks facing us, are being held. Party meetings are being held in conjunction with those party organizations which now find themselves in new conditions. The tasks have been defined, and they are being smoothly and strictly carried out.

Agricultural Work Continuing

LD081623 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Belorussian radio's Gomel Oblast correspondent, Grigoriy Artemyev, has been to the areas bordering on Chernobylskiy Rayon in the Ukraine.

[Artemyev] The border between the fields of Braginskiy and Khoynikskiy Rayons in Belorussia passes in the tract of land between the Rivers Dnieper and Pripet. Chernobyl is 30-40 kilometers from here. Farm workers knew that a misfortune had occurred there, but the incident did not cause panic although everyone knew what dangers an accident at an atomic power station could bring. Throughout recent days, the grain workers have been toiling on their fields, laying a firm foundation for the forthcoming harvest.

Here is Georgiy Nikolayevich Pankov, first secretary of Braginskiy Raykom:

[Begin Pankov recording] There was much discussion in the rayon of these events. We set up chemical monitoring stations. Farm managers and the party organization started acting from the very first few days on the basis that the radiation doses were small. In individual farms they amounted to 50 or 40 milliroentgens. People realized that this was not a threat to life. And that is why work on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, at the livestock farms, and in the fields did not stop for a single hour. And I can tell you that we have successfully carried out our work. The sowing of early grain crops has been completed. The sowing of fibre-flax has been finished. Potato planting is being carried out intensively: more than 80 percent of the planned planting has been completed in our rayon. [end recording]

[Artemyev] On the fields of Khoynikskiy Rayon, I met Mikhail Ivanovich Vasyukov, chairman of the Oktyabr Kolkhoz.

[Begin Vasyuk recording] The spring sowing has practically been completed. To date, 20 hectares out of the planned 200 hectares of corn remain to be sown on the farm. We have sown the beet, flax, and the remaining crops.

Work at Kiev Monitoring Center

LD091023 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] You are aware, comrades, that at the present time in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES the condition of the atmosphere and the water is being most strictly monitored everywhere. Our correspondent Vladimir Sokolov presents a report from the Kiev Center for the Study and Monitoring of the Environment:

[Sokolov] I am now in a laboratory where samples of water from the Dnepr, Pripyat and Desna Rivers and other water bodies are being studied. The head of the laboratory, Irina Petrovna Semenova, is working with a large piece of equipment whose indicator is flashing figures that are repeated on a printout.

[Semenova] This instrument makes it possible to make a chemical analysis of surface waters, and the readings that are on the printout make it possible now to determine the concentration of pollution in the surface waters. We check this in field conditions, and we also carry out laboratory research. That is to say, we need to know what is happening to the waters and in what conditions.

[Sokolov] And in usual conditions, as the head of the center Yuriy Nikolayevich Pimenenko, has said, observations of the atmosphere, water, and soil are conducted constantly.

[Pimenenko] However, these observations have now been considerably expanded with regard to their number, frequency, and volume. Additional field posts have been deployed in Kiev and adjoining oblasts. All the data obtained from them are being processed at our center and are passed on to the headquarters responsible for eliminating the aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl AES.

[Sokolov] Could one say what the general picture is?

[Pimenenko] In the most general terms one can say the following. The radiation in the atmosphere, which already presents no danger, is on a downward trend. The water is virtually pure. With regard to the soil we are conducting our usual observations.

Makarov Rayon Activities Reported

LD081635 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 8 May 86

[Report by correspondent V. Lyaskalo, over video — from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] This is Makarov Rayon in Kiev Oblast. It is one of the nearest rayons to the Chernobyl Rayon. As one arrives by motor vehicle in its territory, representatives of the rayispolkom, doctors, specialists measuring dosage, and staff of the Main Motor Inspectorate, who are prepared for decontamination service, are on duty around-the-clock at the checkpoint.

Here too are the communication workers. They have installed the town telephone directly in the field. Over this telephone it is possible to ring up not just the rayon center but also, through the intertown network, any populated locality in the country.

Meanwhile, the post offices of all the villages and especially the rayon communications network are at present working with double the load and at times three times the load. All off-days have been cancelled. Telephonists, telegraphists, operators, and electrical mechanics from other rayons in the oblast have arrived to help.

Let us note the fact that the post offices have left the Pripyat area and Chernobyl and the adjacent villages together with the inhabitants. Now they are continuing to function in neighboring villages. Thus, all letters and telegrams sent to Chernobyl Rayon will definitely reach those to whom they are addressed.

Medics Working Non-Stop

LD081940 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1800 GMT 8 May 86

["How the Medics Are Working in a Battle Situation in the Region of the Chernobyl AES" — TASS headline; report by TASS special correspondents Vladimir Zhukovskiy, Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko]

[Excerpts] Kiev, 8 May (TASS) — The senior doctor of the "Lesnaya Polyana" sanatorium-dispensary, Vitaliy Alekseyevich Melnichenko, has not slept for 2 days. The sanatorium has been receiving a reserve group of workers of the Chernobyl AES for a rest. The operations in extreme conditions, the evacuation of families — all this of course has left its mark on people. For this reason it is necessary to create all the conditions for making them feel at home here. This is the task that the senior doctor has set for the medical personnel. They have introduced round-the-clock duty for teams of doctors, and the burden has also increased on the laboratory which has had to make dozens of blood analyses.

It was in this way that "Lesnaya Polyana" has been meeting those who will soon have to continue their watch at the Chernobyl AES. After all, although the reactors have been stopped, it is necessary to maintain the necessary conditions for them. And the people who are entrusted with such a responsible task must also be in good form. The medics are taking care of this.

The results of our studies show that our patients are completely healthy and that after a rest are able to return to their work, the senior doctor believes. The radiation monitor has become a familiar figure in the corridors of the sanatorium. A radiation "patrol" attentively checks the condition of the air and the soil. The medics have also mastered this new specialization for themselves.

More than 1,300 doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians and radiation monitors and 240 ambulances — such is the medical task force that is working in the region of the Chernobyl AES says A.N. Zelinskiy, first deputy minister of health of the Ukraine. In his hands he has a list about the accomodation of the evacuated population. For example there is the village of Peskovka. Here they have received more than 2,000 people from the danger zone. We sent 12 teams of doctors from other oblasts to help the local medics in proving them with medical care.

The Ministry of Health of the Ukraine is constantly receiving requests to be posted to the area of the Chernobyl AES, the deputy minister continues. Many medical workers entered the struggle to liquidate the consequences of the accident from the very first nervous days. The Ukrainian Ministry of Health was one of the first to receive the signal about the disaster at the AES. Steps were immediately taken to provide first aid to those affected and to check on the condition of the environment. Not an hour had passed before ambulances were rushing in the direction of Chernobyl from Kiev and from other cities. The leading specialists of the Republic's Ministry of Health were sent to the region.

At the station itself, radiation monitors measured the level of radiation, doctors examined ill people. Those who were in need of urgent attention were hospitalized. They were received by the Kiev Oblast hospital and other specialized clinics of the capital of the Ukraine. Those most seriously affected among the workers of the AES and the fire brigades were sent by aircraft to Moscow to specialized clinics of the USSR Ministry of health.

Leading specialists from Moscow and Leningrad have arrived in Kiev for consultations and to provide assistance. Among them are the vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Academician L. Ilin, Professors L. Romanov, E. Gogin, V. Kharitonov, O. Pavlovskiy and others. The healing establishments of Kiev and the oblast have all the necessary preparations at their disposal.

Great health-education work is being undertaken. A. Romanenko, minister of health of the Ukraine, has been appearing on television and radio, speaking about the preventive measures necessary in the situation that has arisen.

Now, almost half the patients who entered the hospital after the accident at the AES have already been discharged. Through the efforts of the medics, people are being returned to health, and through the efforts of the party and local workers and of various specialists, life in the region of Chernobyl is returning to normal.

Radiation Levels Decreasing

LD081607 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] In connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES, the strictest monitoring of the atmosphere and water is presently being carried out everywhere in the Ukraine. Our correspondent Vladimir Sokolov presents a report from the Center for the Study and Monitoring of the Environment in Kiev.

[Begin recording] [Sokolov] I am now in a laboratory where samples of water from the Dnepr, Pripyat, Desna and other bodies of water are being examined. Irina Petrovna Semenova, the head of the laboratory, is working at a large instrument on which display figures are flashed up; these are then duplicated on a printer.

[Semenova] This instrument enables us to complete the chemical analysis of surface water, and the readings that are printed out make it possible for us to determine the concentration of the contaminants in surface water. We also carry out checks on field conditions, and are also doing laboratory research. What we need to know is how the water is behaving and what the conditions are.

[Sokolov] In normal circumstances, according to the chief of the Center, Yuriy Nikolayevich Pimonenko, constant observations of the atmosphere, water and soil are carried out.

[Pimonenko] At the moment, however, these observations have been considerably expanded in terms of quantity, frequency and scope. In Kiev and adjoining oblasts additional field stations have been set up. All the data from them are processed at our center and sent to the headquarters for the elimination of the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl AES.

[Sokolov] Could you tell us what the general picture is, at least.

[Pimonenko] Speaking in the broadest terms, we can say the following. The radiation in the atmosphere, which already presents no danger, is tending to go down. The water is practically pure. As for soil, we are carrying out the normal observations. [end recording]

Officials on Evacuation

PM081734 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 May 86 First Edition p 6

[Special correspondents V. Gubarev and M. Odinets dispatch: "Spring of Alarm and Courage. Our Special Correspondents Report From Kiev"]

[Text] At times it seems as if the occurrence was an absurd dream. Spring is all around, with bright and gentle sunshine, flower beds in bloom, lush greenery in parks and boulevards.... And suddenly tears come to the eye: No success yet in finding out where the relatives have been evacuated. A day or two will pass and they will definitely be found, but nonetheless people's anxiety and perturbation are so easy to understand and explain.

A woman entered the *PRAVDA* correspondent's office. We were already prepared to explain the situation in the oblast one more time, to give the address and name of the organization to be contacted for assistance. But the woman unexpectedly began:

"Please, my viewpoint must definitely be printed in the paper!"

"What exactly do you mean?"

"I am Polina Vladimirovna Kuzmenko," the caller introduced herself. "Medical worker. I am indignant that some people in the

city are spreading stupid rumors. They say that schools are closing down and that children are being transported out of the city. This is why some people are walking about with long faces and downhearted. I have a daughter, Alenka. She is in the ninth grade. I know that school examinations are due to begin 25 May. Why are such rumors spreading?! So, do write in the newspaper: Medical worker Kuzmenko knows for a fact, and not by hearsay, that there is no danger to people's health in Kiev! I really beg you, write it...."

"We will try."

"Thank you!" Polina Vladimirovna made her way toward the door, then turned back: "It is springtime out there, spring must be welcomed with smiles."

Kiev is always unique in May. Chestnut trees in bloom, gardens ablaze with snow-white flowers.... And yet, May this year is special. It is different from last year, even though streets and squares are crowded like in the past, preparations are underway for Victory Day, dance ensembles are rehearsing, and the people of Kiev are following the Bicycle Race of Peace with tremendous interest. As in the past, enterprises, institutions, stores, and markets are operating with precision. But events at the Chernobyl AES perturb everyone. And this is not just idle curiosity — the capital of the Ukraine is going all out to help in the struggle launched in the north of the oblast against the consequences of the accident.

Motor vehicles are needed — and they are immediately on the highways leading to Chernobyl. Medical institutions are helping the victims and monitoring people's health, internal affairs organs are maintaining law and order. Generally speaking, every citizen of the Ukrainian capital is helping, to a greater or lesser extent, to overcome the misfortune that has befallen us all. Perhaps people in Kiev initially lacked complete information about the events that were taking place and the situation in the city. This provided grounds for all kinds of rumors which, incidentally, were quite actively disseminated by various "voices" in the West. The press conference in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the statements by departmental leaders on republic radio and television, the press reports, and also the information supplied to the population by party workers — all this helps to present a more accurate picture of the occurrence and, therefore, to combat the consequences more effectively.

"People have reacted to the events at the nuclear power station as a personal misfortune," was how Kiev Obkom First Secretary G. Revenko began our conversation. "And this is why the evacuees from the danger zone have been greeted cordially in villages and settlements. Incidentally, we never had any doubt about our people; we appealed to them and met with complete understanding and a readiness to help and share everything there is. At this time the overwhelming majority are toiling courageously and, I would say, selflessly. They are coming to party raykoms and ispolkoms with a single question: How can I help? And many are themselves helping in the evacuation heedless of time and difficulties."

On the roads we saw convoys of vehicles carrying livestock, and posts and medical monitoring centers are operating — it proved possible to organize a precise evacuation system within a short space of time....

"It was particularly difficult during the first days," Grigoriy Ivanovich noted. And he immediately added. "It is not easy today either. I can say that from the first hour the obkom and the rayon and all party committees have been working round the clock in accordance with a 'combat norm.' There are many difficulties. The evacuation from Pripyat proceeded rapidly, but difficulties emerged in the village: For not only people but also livestock have to be moved out. Where to house them? How to find jobs for the people? At the initial stage there was considerable confusion — after all, several tens of thousands of people were evacuated! And in a very short space of time. Nobody had any experience of this kind of thing...."

"We saw tractors in the fields, and agricultural work is going on..." "How else could it be?" the secretary expressed surprise. "The oblast is working. Incidentally, I have one criticism of the press: You are writing very little about labor collectives this year, yet we planted the potatoes ahead of schedule and milk yields have risen. We are monitoring the milk carefully — twice in fact: before it is dispatched to the city and when it comes into Kiev. We are equally diligent toward vegetables — monitoring is also obligatory. Accidents must be avoided, and in a matter like this it is necessary to be exceptionally organized. I can say that a 30 km zone has been created, and it is possible to live in it. But no risk should be taken. This is precisely why we are sending children and breastfeeding mothers to guest houses and camps for the entire summer. The radiation situation in Kiev is not a cause for fears, but nevertheless some questions, in my view, should be resolved expeditiously. When school ends the kids used to head off for young pioneer camps — many of them on the Kiev Sea [Kiyevskoy More] coast in the north of the oblast. It is clear that the children will not be able to spend this summer there. Camps, sanatoriums, and guest houses wuill be made available for them in the south and other areas.

"The necessary conclusions must be drawn from what has happened," the obkom secretary continued. "Sometimes harsh conclusions, even. People show themselves up in different ways. There have proved to be fainthearted people and people who simply fled. And there are also hundreds of examples of heroism. But, I repeat, nobody can doubt our people's courage and selflessness. City, rayon, all the oblast's party organizations are being put to the test at this time. It is simultaneously a test for every person and Communist. We are clearly aware of this."

Today is Victory Day. Veterans have begun to come into Kiev to meet with combat friends in the Ukrainian capital's parks and squares. But some of them will not be able to come to Kiev. Although they are not far away — only just over 100 km from the city. They are in Chernobyl. Here, as in those harsh far-off years, is where the front line lies today and they are struggling for a tranquil life for people. In Chernobyl we spoke with I. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

"A very responsible stage of work is now beginning for all specialists and scientists who work at the Chernobyl AES," he said, in part. "The evacuation from the 30 km zone has been completed, and the population has been moved out to safe areas.

The government commission has concentrated its efforts precisely on the power station, where hundreds of specialists are now working, among them many who have come to eliminate the consequences of the accident from all corners of the country. They are working courageously and selflessly."

There is only one word which can define what is being done today by those who are working in the nuclear power station zone — an exploit. It is an exploit by thousands of people who during difficult minutes, hours, and days are withstanding with honor the test which has fallen to their lot.

Army Paper Gives Update

PM081350 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 May 86 Second Edition p 3

[TASS correspondents Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko report: "Chernobyl, Fact and Fiction; TASS Special Correspondents Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko Report 7 May From the Area of the Chernobyl AES Accident"]

[Text] We watched the press conference held by the USSR Foreign Ministry in Moscow for Soviet and foreign journalists in connection with the Chernobyl AES accident while only a few dozen kilometers away from the nuclear station. Our television was not in a bunker behind layers of reinforced concrete. We were attentively listening to the journalists' questions and the replies of the official Soviet spokesmen in a hotel room, outside which was a city at dusk concerned about the day that was ending and the day yet to come. Several days have already passed since we were given the opportunity to visit the accident region. We have met with dozens of people who witnessed the tragedy which happened at 0123 hours on 26 April. We were, so to speak, at the edge of the "zone" in which people are currently really battling against the elements [stikhiya]. This battle is systematic, backed up by the calculations of scientists and specialists and embodied in the courage of people of whom, we are sure, more will be told in the future. We have seen a great deal and understood a great deal during these days.

Listening to what was said at the press conference and having read beforehand dozens of so-called "reports," "allegations," "statements," and "suggestions" by newspapers, radio and TV stations, and news agencies in the West, where the Chernobyl disaster has been turned from a human tragedy into a problem of political blackmail against the USSR, we wanted to simply say from here, near Kiev: "Stop! Let's find out!"

...When Militia Major General Gennadiy Vasilyevich Berdov, Ukrainian SSR deputy minister of internal affairs, arrived on the scene 90 minutes after the event following an emergency phone call, he realized that a battle was starting which would last more than hours and perhaps more than days. It was then that he gave the order to compile a "battle log" similar to a ship's log, and to record in it everything happening at the AES and the power workers' city in strict chronological order.

We saw this log and the entries made by different hands. "The fire fighters fought the flames at a height of 30 meters." "Molten bitumen is forming puddles." "The fire has been prevented from reaching the third reactor unit." "Sites have been decided for the fire crews." "People have been evacuated from the fire zone"... Later the entry "Radiation" appeared in the log.

Neither General Berdov, nor the hundreds of people manning their work stations or arriving here in response to the distress signal were aware of this at the time and, frankly, they did not give it a thought. They fought the fire, sparing no effort, courageously, without a thought for themselves. Getting stuck in the molten bitumen, their faces black with soot, they were saving their comrades, they were saving the station. Neither these people, nor the prominent Soviet scientists who arrived a few hours later together with members of the government commission were able to tell then the causes of the accident or its consequences. Time was needed to find out what had happened.

A few hours later, according to eyewitness accounts and as confirmed by the documentary information contained in the "log," the situation at the station was already under control. However, it was still too early, indeed simply impossible, to speak of the scale of the accident.

That was here, in Chernobyl...

Meanwhile in London *THE DAILY MIRROR* reported without a hint of embarrassment, feigning measured concern: "Some 2,000 people are believed to have been killed during the first stage." *TIME* [as published] wrote: "According to information received from certain U.S. intelligence circles, the fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power station is still out of control." And the self-same *TIME* again: The newspaper's Moscow correspondent C. Walker, citing a certain Rhona Branson, one of approximately 100 British citizens "who are being hastily evacuated from the Ukraine," claimed that "the government hospital in Kiev is full of victims of the catastrophe."

Yet here is what the Soviet Union stated at a press conference through its official spokesman: "Our approach is aimed at providing information which is responsible, objective, reliable, and considered, or, in a word, honest."

Honest! Minutes after the accident V.P. Voloshko, chairman of the Pripyat Soviet Ispolkom was at the No 4 unit. He worked at the station for a long time. He is regarded as a good, knowledgeable specialist. It was he who headed the local operational headquarters set up in the nuclear power workers' city.

"How can you talk about 2,000 dead!" — Vladimir Pavlovich is outraged. "It is a lie. After all, it happened during the nightshift and moreover during a scheduled shutdown [ostanovka] of the unit.

"It is the same at power stations all over the world — power workers know this very well — there are fewer people on duty at such times, particularly at night. I would like to make a different point. At the time of the accident everyone who was at the station was worth 100 men. What those people did can be appreciated only now, and even now not fully appreciated. They were heroes. And just as war heroes draw fire upon themselves, they too drew fire upon themselves. I am not afraid of high-flown words. They suffered the most. Many of those people are now in the country's

finest special clinics. Our finest doctors are fighting for their health. I would hold in high esteem any doctors, Soviet, American, or Japanese, if they do everything possible, and indeed impossible, to save my comrades' lives."

G.A. Karyaka, deputy secretary of the power station party committee, is still at his post. Communists are mounting a vigil at power units 1, 2, and 3. We met with him on the very edge of the "zone" to which we have already referred.

On the morning of 26 April Gennadiy Alekseyevich was also at the power station.

"Only now is it possible to recreate a picture of what happened at the time of the accident," he said. "The reactor suffered damage, its core was partially destroyed, some radioactivity was released, and the reactor's criticality was lost. We know that those ill-disposed to us in the West are alleging that radioactivity is even now continuing to increase. That too is a fabrication. The reactor was suppressed [zaglushen] the moment safety control procedures were activated, at minimum capacity. Many other technical questions concerned with eliminating the consequences of the accident are now being resolved, but there is no chain reaction."

A certain Rhona Branson hastened to leave Kiev. Did she express a desire to do so, or was she forced? We are unable to say. But, nevertheless, we visited Kiev hospitals. We enquired whether there were now many radiation victims receiving treatment. We were answered by Ukrainian Health Minister A. Ye. Romanenko, who, incidentally, appeared on television to inform the inhabitants about the current radiation situation.

"There is no direct danger to the health of residents of Kiev and the oblast. The meteorological conditions initially prevailing after the Chernobyl accident prevented the spread of radioactive elements toward the city. The work done at the station made it possible to significantly reduce the release of such elements into the environment. Nevertheless, following the change in wind direction and force in the last few days, a certain increase has been observed in the level of background radiation in the city and some of the oblast's rayons. This radiation level is not dangerous to health and is no obstacle to ordinary labor activity.

"The radiation conditions currently prevailing in Kiev do not necessitate any preventive medical treatment for the population. Furthermore, the uncontrolled use of various medicines — so-called 'self-treatment' — could damage people's health. All questions concerning the effect of the environment on the population's health are unflaggingly monitored by the republican Ministry of Health."

But we were indeed told in the city's hospitals for infectious diseases of cases directly connected with events in Chernobyl. Life is life, and panic-mongers do exist. Taking ill-considered advice, some people took medications thought to protect them against radiation. But the exact opposite occurred — people suffered from poisoning. This is what is being treated now.

In the Chernobyl area at the moment we are, so to speak, in the thick of events. We can see the titanic work being done by republican party and soviet organs to provide the evacuated families with work and a normal life. We have seen for ourselves yet again the simple and yet so great truth: How wonderful our people are! What golden people — young and old, city dwellers and peasants, educated by our system and our entire style of life. They are giving the best "morsels" to the evacuees, and the best spots in their homes are assigned to the guests. Children that have joined new schools have been assigned to the first shift, and the locals attend the second...

No one makes any secret of the calamity [beda] in Chernobyl. The occurrence confirms yet again that the atom, even the peaceful atom, demands great caution. And if the atom is locked inside bombs or missiles targeted on human destruction, it is nothing but human madness! This is what people say now at many rallies and meetings being held here, near Kiev.

We affirm once more: Life is running normally and calmly in the Ukrainian capital and the adjacent rayons. All enterprises are functioning. Of course, there is also anxiety. Particularly on the part of parents for their children. The summer vacations are approaching. Lines have formed for tickets at railroad and Aeroflot offices. Dozens of additional long-distance trains, suburban electric trains, diesel trains, and special Aeroflot flights are now being organized. All the children from evacuated areas will be the first to be sent to young pioneer camps, sanatoriums, and rest homes.

...Once we have transmitted this item, we will again make our way to the Chernobyl area. A government commission is now working there, amazing people are performing exploits every minute there, the front line of the struggle now runs right through there.

IZVESTIYA Correspondent Reports From Kiev Oblast

PM081601 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 May 86 Morning Edition p 6

[Special correspondent A. Illesh: "Reportage From the Region of the Chernobyl AES": "In a Difficult Hour"]

[Text] Kiev Oblast — We tried in vain to elicit from Petr Voronovskiy, commander of a KA-26 helicopter, information about any particular sensations on his part on his first flight up to the Chernobyl AES. The young, strong man refused to be drawn and tried to confine himself to brief phrases: "Everything was normal. As usual. The usual picture. Flames? I didn't see any. The smoke was similar to what any enterprise emits in normal conditions...."

Neither he nor his colleague Yuriy Bolodko had the feeling that theywere doing anything out of the ordinary. Perhaps the pilots have a right to call their work ordinary and the flights routine. But their labor, however prosaic it might appear, helped specialists to study the situation (they carried instruments and helped to measure radioactivity), and the job they did so simply helped to limit the consequences of the accident which had happened.

Let us make no bones about it: the aviators certainly took a risk. And we must now mention, among the firemen, militiamen,

medics, drivers, and others who displayed courage, the names of the helicopter commanders — Sokol and Kunayev, Volkov and Malenchenkov, Muscovites from Myachkovo; Yanko from Rostov and Pushchin from Uzhgorod, Sokolov from Odessa and Shevel and Brolgin from Kiev...in time we will be able to evaluate "from a distance" their actions and the actions of those who are now working at the AES itself. But even now it is no sin — it is a duty — to pay our respects to the rescuers. It would be good to mention them by name. But a newspaper page would not have room for all whom we should thank today. Let us remember: at the station itself alone, 150 people a day are coming on shift.

But the people for whom the danger has passed are already living a new, unaccustomed, and naturally, for the time being, difficult life. Resettlement is no easy matter, especially when it takes place by force of circumstances.

...The village of Razvazhev, one of the 17 settlements in Ivanovskiy Rayon which have taken in evacuees. The central farmstead of the Ukraina Kolkhoz is here. It is a big farm. There is a secondary school, a cultural institute, a library, a hospital. Our interviewee, pensioner Aleksandra Andreyevna Davidova, formerly a creche worker, said:

"When the busloads of people appeared in the village, we realized, especially we old ones, that there had never been any evacuation like it: the people just kept on coming! Well, you have to live...and everyone was willing to give shelter to the people who came. I took in the family of Mikhail Mikhaylovich Voznyy. Quite a big family. There is the wife, Galina Vasilyevna, and two children, the boys are studying in the fourth and eighth grades. We made them as welcome as we could, from the beginning. And food was soon brought in. When the Voznyy family had settled in, they asked: 'How long can we count on?' I said: 'You stay as long as necessary.' "

"Nearly all our inhabitants have been so friendly," kolkhoz chairman A. Radchenko says. "People seemed to blossom in the face of trouble. So much sympathy and understanding!"

We — myself and *IZVESTIYA*'s Kiev correspondents A. Dolenko, N. Baklanov, and S. Tsikora — saw this for ourselves....

Yevdokiya Aleksandrovna Otroshenko, chief of the livestock unit laboratory on the Razvazhev kolkhoz, took in Valentina Mikhaylovna Bryukhanova, wife of the AES director. She has started work as a relief milkmaid at the livestock unit. Galina Timofeyevna Kuksenok, a teacher at the local school, took two families under her roof. One is the family of office worker Valentina Aleksandrovna Popova. It is a family of five: there is a son and his young wife and children. They are living in harmony. They prepare meals together and busy themselves about the house. Popova's son Vladimir says: "It's like visiting our aunt."

The concern of the state and their compatriots for the resettled people is effective and concrete. Razvazhev has found jobs for 37 people. Taken on by the Ukraina Kolkhoz, they have set about their work. People at the comprehensive consumer services center are pleased with the work of a hairdresser and a photographer from the AES settlement. Four new teachers soon started work, as well as four workers in the canteen, five in the forest, two at the bakery....

The Ukraina Kolkhoz presented May Day gifts to the 200 children who came to Razvazhev together with their parents. And 6 May was a particularly memorable day for the new inhabitants; they received their first wages in the new place. In another Kiev Oblast rayon, Polesskiy, they have received evacuees at 58 settlements, and in Borodnyanskiy at 18 settlements. Nine villages in Makarovskiy Rayon have also given shelter to those in trouble.

Life goes on, people settle in. In Polesskiy Rayon, 50 percent of the evacuated schoolchildren turned up for lessons on the first day. On the second day, 90 percent were there. Now all the children are at school. The little ones have been found places in kindergartens.

But it must be said that the events in Chernobyl have affected not only the oblast's life, but the whole face of ancient Kiev. Thousands of stands selling icecream, piroshki, and fruit juice have disappeared from the streets. Now they are only sold indoors. Why? We will explain later. The city was awaiting the spring rain. Everyone is waiting for its torrents to wash the dust from the foliage. And not only what we call street dust. For the time being, on doctors' recommendations' they are very thoroughly hosing down the streets and washing all the highways, without economizing on water.

We saw unusual pictures in the markets too. Now everything shipped in from the suburbs is being checked by dosimeter operators. Dairy products are examined particularly carefully. Only an "okay" from the specialists can release the product onto the store counters.

As before, there are mountains of greens and heaps of meat and lard on the vegetable and meat stalls. Natives of Kiev remain true to their traditions — they buy their main food products at the bazaar. As always, the market premises are crowded. But the question "where is it from?" is now being asked not only in order to start a conversation about the merits of the goods on offer.

"The republic's sanitation and epidemiological station has plenty on its hands now," V. Betchinkin, chief of its main administration, says. "Public health doctors are entrusted with all the monitoring of the quality of food products, the purity of water, and the organization of trade in the new way."

These services in Kiev and the oblast began work almost simultaneously with the teams of medics who gave first aid to those who suffered at the time of the accident. It is still too soon for major conclusions to be drawn, we were told at Kiev Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom, but facts and observations are accumulating. The lesson taught at the AES proved costly. But we must profit from it skillfully. We cannot be content solely with optimistic information or with information which does not mobilize people to overcome the difficulties. There is no point in denying that there were individual workers who failed to show sufficient firmness or readiness to take decisions in the emergency conditions.

Unfortunately it transpired that the sanitary and epidemiological service serving the AES has no contacts with the one that operates outside the AES, and is responsible for the condition of the air, water, and soil on the territory adjoining the AES.

"Strict dosimetric monitoring of people leaving has now been imposed at airports and rail and bus stations," V. Betchinkin goes on. "The purpose is to give primary medical aid to those who need it. And that is all. Other precautionary measures concern food products. Temporary and, I want to stress, very stringent norms for the quality of all agricultural products have been imposed in the republic.

"It is purely as a preventive measure, and by no means because of the condition of the atmosphere, that, as you know, street trade in piroshki, icecream, fruit juices, and drinking water has been banned in Kiev. It is correct to say that in such cases it is better to be 'on the safe side.' And the population fully understands these preventive measures."

We wanted to end our reportage here. But the conclusion was "dictated" by our readers. The fact is that people today frequently ask all sorts of questions at the *IZVESTIYA* correspondents' center in Kiev. But they are all connected in one way or another with the AES accident and the elimination of its consequences.

People are most interested in the problems facing parents whose children are going to school today, the problems of providing the evacuated population with everything they need, and the way in which sanitary treatment of people and clothing is organized. Our readers are answered by the leaders of the appropriate state organizations.

A. Tymchik, chief of the Kiev Gorispolkom public education administration:

"Indeed, Kiev's schools do not appear quite as usual at present. You will not see the usual noisy crowd of children in the schoolyards and sports fields. Teachers make sure that the children do not go outside the buildings. And the schoolchildren themselves know about the medical recommendations. But what they are most concerned about in this situation is whether or not the summer vacation will start early. Naturally, parents are interested in that too.

"The schools are working according to the established schedule. Teachers are explaining to parents that as yet there has been no decision on curtailing the school year. Of course, there are still many difficulties to be overcome. We were also engaged in resolving the problem of the schoolchildren's summer vacation at pioneer camps and labor and leisure camps. As soon as the situation becomes finally clear, we will of course inform all the population."

V. Starunskiy, Ukrainian SSR minister of trade:

"In the regions where evacuees have been placed, we have organized food supplies for people and the sale of bread, pasta, groats, butter, fruit juices, mineral water, clothing, footwear, bedding, and other essential goods. The supply of goods to people is constantly monitored by the ministry."

V. Zhegulin, the republic's deputy minister of consumer services:

"The main task for representatives of the service sphere in the prevailing conditions was the sanitary treatment of people and their clothing. In the regions where evacuees have been placed, sanitary washing centers [sanitarno-omyvochnyye punkty] and clothing decontamination stations are now in operation — both mobile and stationary. There are also emergency facilities based on dry cleaners, bathhouses, and the specialized combine of the Kiev consumer services administration. Workers of the ministry and the oblast consumer services administration are on duty around the clock in the rayons and carry out checks when necessary."

Grigoryev: Man Cannot Renounce Atomic Energy
LD081437 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1306 GMT 8 May 86

["Propaganda: Pollution of the International Information Environment" — TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 8 May (TASS) — Aleksey Grigoryev, TASS political observer, writes:

It seems that Western propaganda media are focused on only one geographic point: Chernobyl. As if the ruins of Tripoli and Banghazi no longer existed and the bodies of Libyan women and children mutilated by U.S. bombs were no more. As if deadly radiation did not ooze from underground in Nevada where recently, to the outrage to the entire world, nuclear blasts echoed again. As if Israel did not join Britain and the FRG in expressing its wish to cooperate with the United States in the preparation for "star wars". As if finally, the Pentagon did not just now complete the deployment of the last Pershings-II's in the FRG.

Closing their eyes to all of this and to much else that is alarming mankind today, a number of high-ranking figures in the West and their journalist army are sounding the alarm, becoming excited and indignant, and are scaring other people and themselves with what happened at the Chernobyl AES. "The United States still does not know all the details of the situation in Chernobyl," complains State Department representative C. Redman. "The Soviet statements remain vague and indicate that the problem has not yet been resolved. The information we have is insufficient for a full assessment of the situation." Anyone would think that the morning after the very serious accident at the AES near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1979 all the problems were solved and that information sufficient for making a full assessment fo the situation had appeared! Going by U.S. standards, the USSR could have announced the Chernobyl accident only yesterday and have informed the IAEA 2 months later.

The behavior of the FRG authorities is indicative of the reaction of a number of Western countries to this accident. Speaking on radio and television, Friedrich Zimmermann, federal minister of the interior, stated: "The serious accident at the Soviet atomic power station has perturbed all of us." After this, in accordance

with the notorious rule, he accused the USSR of providing "incomplete and tardy information," but then admitted: "There was no danger for us and there is now no danger for us... WHO also does not see any danger for people outside the affected zone in the USSR." And immediately, contrary to all logic, Zimmermann's department began to sow panic among the FRG population, calling for windows to be sealed, for vegetables and fruit to be washed (as if they used to eat them when they were dirty!), and in general to remember..."the nuclear threat from the East."

The "free," "independent," and "above-party" press, in an attack of anti-Soviet hysteria, beats in unison with such appeals by issuing reports that "all the land in the Ukraine is poisoned" and that "there are mountains of bodies around the power station."

The unusual nature of the situation that has arisen in connection with the accident at Chernobyl AES demands rapid and bold decisions as well as courage and responsibility. Soviet people understand the vast attention being paid to this work, the results of which are, in the final analysis, important for all mankind, because mankind cannot renounce the peaceful use of atomic energy. But what is not understandable is the relishing of our misfortune which is being used to conceal attempts to distract attention from the real threat hanging over the planet: the threat of nuclear war. It is precisely those people who are preparing such a war who are interested in contaminating the information environment with lies about events at the Chernobyl AES.

Arbatov Comments on Chernobyl Incident

PM081758 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 May 86
First Edition p 4

[Academician G. Arbatov article: "Boomerang"]

[Text] ...We have had a misfortune — the accident at the Chernobyl AES. A government commission is to investigate its causes. This accident (it is not the first in the world but the 152d recorded at nuclear power stations, although, by all accounts, it is rather serious) will make specialists of all countries study all conceivable aspects of safety in nuclear reactors in all their details over and over again.

But the events at Chernobyl have troubled not only government experts and specialists in nuclear energy. The accident was at the center of world public attention for many days.

There are natural reasons for this. An increase (true, not on a scale dangerous to people's health and life) in the radioactiveness of clouds and precipitation was noted not only in nearby USSR oblasts but also in other countries. It is understandable that all this could not help but arouse a certain unease in every normal person. We understand this unease. And we ourselves also feel certain alarm when such a thing happens in another country.

These days many people in other countries have also felt a sense of compassion, for the accident was not without casualties. People have been injured and irradiated. Thousands of people have had to be evacuated from adjacent settlements. We have no doubts about the sincerity of the expressions of sympathy for the victims — what else could have made the American doctors, Professors Gale and Tarasaki, hurry to Moscow. And the same feeling prompted thousands of Britons, Americans, French people, Swiss, Japanese, and Germans to offer their services as bone marrow donors (a marrow transplant is essential in serious cases of irradiation). Soviet people feel profound and truly heartfelt gratitude to all these noble men and women and to all whose moral support they feel during these difficult days.

A friend in need is a friend indeed, as the saying goes. And, incidentally, that is also when enemies make themselves known. And they have not been dozing these days. Rather, they have simply not even closed their eyes. The apparatus of "psychological warfare" created by the United States and its NATO allies was switched to a state of emergency. I do not rule out that this was done even before the accident at Chernobyl. They had long been waiting for an excuse to mount a new anti-Soviet campaign. Many Western figures were just too concerned at the response evoked in the public of the United States, West Europe, and the whole world by the major Soviet initiatives. Such, for example, as the Soviet Union's unilateral cessation of nuclear tests. Or the program to eliminate nuclear arms by the year 2000. Or the proposal to create a comprehensive international security system. The fact that all this formed in the eyes of the world public an image of the USSR as a country honestly and unbendingly championing peace frightened the instigators of the arms race far more than Soviet submarines and missiles. They were feverishly seeking a cause, even a hint of a cause, to open concentrated fire with propaganda guns of all calibers. Fire against the Soviet Union's growing international prestige. And against mutual trust. Trust, very little of which still remains, let us state frankly. And which, nevertheless, is as essential as air for stabilizing the situation and starting to get away from the dangerous brink toward which we are inexorably being pushed by the arms race and the "cold war."

An absurdly primitive fairytale — the reader knows this — was thought up: Since the Soviet Union did not immediately report the causes, scale, and consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES, we must not believe a single one of its proposals, and we must not even hold talks with it, let alone conclude agreements. Precisely this was being shouted from all the crossroads from morning to evening, day after day. Scientific terms which mislead inexperienced people were used. There began shameless manipulation of the strongest human emotions: the sense of self-preservation, fear for one's children, fear of an invisible threat.

Unfortunately, this propaganda campaign did not pass without trace. I have been convinced of this during the past week on talking with foreign guests and also on answering questions from foreign television journalists and radio listeners during interviews. At the same time, I do not doubt the sincerity of the questions or the concern that prompted them. Delusions are quite frequently sincere. However, they frequently result also from someone's prompting, in this case prompting by deliberate liars and falsifiers.

How could, for example, someone living in a small Scottish town,

who is concerned about the health of his four children, know that there is no answer to his question: Why has the Soviet government "so far not given the reasons for the accident?" There is no answer for the simple reason that the Soviet Government does not know yet (just as, for example, the U.S. Government does not yet know the true reasons for the destruction of the Challenger spacecraft, although it occurred back in January). Someone has also persuaded him that the anxiety for the health of his children is due to the fact that Moscow has not reported the radiation level, although it is far harder for the Soviet authorities than for the British to measure the level in the Glasgow or Edinburgh area. At the same time, incidentally, the same "well-wishers forgot" to say that the radiation level in Scotland would pose no threat to people's health. Another example. Can a Dutchman, West German, or Frenchman, reading his "respectable" (that is, bourgeois, and, as a rule, hostile toward the USSR) newspapers not recall that it took the U.S. authorities nearly 2 months to prepare a report on the accident at their Three Mile Island nuclear power station and submit it to the IAEA, whereas the Americans and their allies began to demand a report literally on the day after the event? Did it enter the head of the Japanese journalist who carefully interrogated me and complained about the "radioactive rain" in Tokyo that Tokyo is closer to Nevada, where the United States carries out its nuclear explosions (with frequent discharges of radioactive substances), and to French nuclear test sites (on a Pacific island) than to Chernobyl?

I explained the true state of affairs in detail to my interlocutors and listeners. I explained in particular that there had been an accident and that our first concern was to administer first aid to the dozens of victims, to evacuate many thousands of inhabitants, and to localize the center of radioactivity.

I think that when the passions inflamed by the anti-Soviets subside, we will be forgiven this "sin." Although — and this is my own personal opinion — it certainly was a "sin." It was due not to an underestimation of the significance of public opinion but to an underestimation of the activeness and coordination of anti-Soviet propaganda. Somehow one never thought that even a misfortune, an accident, and human distress could be so shamelessly exploited for sordid propaganda games.

But if the organizers of the "hate campaign" unleashed in connection with the Chernobyl accident are celebrating a "success," they are also, it seems to me, in for a bitter disappointment. In order to kick up a propaganda ballyhoo and direct it against the USSR, they obviously overdid it: A serious but, of course, local accident was portrayed as some kind of world nuclear disaster. But in doing so they made people think about the danger of an actual nuclear disaster. This wiped out in a week the long efforts by certain Western politicians and propagandists to "train" the peoples to reconcile themselves to the nuclear threat, so to speak, "to learn to live with the nuclear bomb." So their effort has turned in to a propaganda boomerang.

There will be exhaustive information on Chernobyl, of course — it has already started coming, in fact. Straight into the hands of IAEA Director Dr Hans Blix, who was invited to the USSR. There is no doubt that the dust, propaganda as well as radioactive, will soon settle and people will start to think. Think about the fact that for 2 weeks the world — from Britain to Japan — was in fear of a radioactive discharge which had occurred not even as a result of a nuclear explosion — there was no explosion — but as a result of an accident at a nuclear power station. Yes, there are more than 50,000 nuclear warheads stockpiled in arsenals. And people have somehow started to forget about this — to the pleasure and direct benefit of the arms race instigators. They will now certainly remember these terrible facts, and the fact that the United States and its allies are continuing nuclear tests at full speed, with all the resultant radioactive discharge. Perhaps now, after the shock caused by the propaganda, the Western public will take a new look at the justice of NATO's strategy, which even now envisages first use of nuclear weapons.

The accident — albeit trivial in scale compared with the threat of nuclear war and the nuclear arms race — has once again graphically demonstrated an indisputable fact of our era — that man has breathed life into, created forces against which he is totally impotent if they are used for destructive purposes. This is one of the lessons of Chernobyl. People have been able to see from this example how irrational and absurd is the very idea of nuclear war.

And the second lesson: Sometimes even the most reliable and tested equipment, absolutely perfect equipment fails. And our enemies who are now muttering something about the reason allegedly being the Soviet Union's "lag" in the technical sphere are wasting their breath. According to the IAEA's evaluation, the RBMK-1000 reactor installed in Chernobyl is, as regards reliability, superior to the best Western models. Moreover, both in the United States and Britain there have been quite a few accidents at nuclear power stations and they are using their equipment and not ours. Not to mention other catastrophes in which most advanced and, it would seem, thoroughly tested equipment has failed — the Challenger tragedy, for instance, or the recent Titan and Delta missile failures.

No, it is not a question of someone's backwardness here, but at the same time no one should entertain any illusions about anyone's perfection either. There are issues which are far too serious to be entrusted to mechanisms, thus removing them from the control of human intelligence and renouncing rational procedures for the joint adoption of substantiated decisions. These are primarily the issues of war and peace. These are also all other issues pertaining to security, whether it be in the military, political, economic, or humanitarian sphere.

And so, whether or not it was the intention of the organizers of the deafening anti-Soviet campaign, they have provided a powerful impetus, encouraging people to think and see things clearly. And, in the final analysis, they have helped them to understand how vulnerable the entire modern human civilization has become, technologically vulnerable among other things. Even before Chernobyl there had been no shortage of "warning signals." The discharge of toxins at the U.S. chemical plant in Bhopal (India), for instance, cost the lives of 2,500 people and the health of tens of thousands. Subsequently, the alarm was sounded regarding the highly toxic waste dumps scattered throughout the world. "Acid rain" made people aware that their neighbors could out of complacency or through saving pennies ruin their forests, lakes, and rivers. The pollution of entire seas has become a reality. Not to mention the greatest danger of all — the growing

threat of mankind's annihilation through conventional and nuclear weapons, through holocaust, radiation, or "nuclear winter."

Mankind's rapidly increasing technological vulnerability demands a profound restructuring, a restructuring of the entire system of international political and economic relations and radical changes in political thinking. Because, in order to live normally, indeed in order to survive at all, given all the contradictions, differences, and difficulties which are tearing the world apart, what is needed is cooperation, cooperation in establishing the comprehensive system of international security which the CPSU proposed to the world at its 27th congress. Outlining the principles of this system, sketching its overall outline, M.S. Gorbachev noted that our proposal has been dictated not just by pious wishes but by an understanding of the realities of the modern world and the demands stemming from the specific characteristics of the current stage of international development.

The choice confronting mankind is tragically simple: It is peaceful coexistence or "nonexistence." It was not the intention of the organizers of the anti-Soviet campaign, of course, to lead the broad public in the West to an understanding of this truth. But blind hatred, just like other uncontrolled emotions, often pushes people to take steps which have unforeseen results. This is what will most probably happen also in this case. The accident at Chernobyl — that is not just our misfortune. It has shown that, in the nuclear age, even what happens in the sphere of the peaceful use of nuclear energy concerns the interests of one and all. And as for nuclear war — its threat is a predicament of a much more far-reaching nature.

Residual Anti-Soviet 'Radiation' Lingers

LD081709 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 8 May 86

[Commentary by *PRAVDA* observer Vladimir Bolshakov]

[Text] In the West, the slanderous fuss over the accident at Chernobyl AES continues. Not for the first time, our press reports on the unbridled campaign that has been whipped up in the West over the accident at Chernobyl AES. It now looks as if its murky propaganda cloud is beginning to disperse, having circled the globe several times. Also becoming clearer are the aims of those who inflated this cloud, and the consequences of its — to speak technically — residual radiation.

The prime object of whipping up anti-Sovietism over the incident at Chernobyl was once again to sow distrust of the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policy. They have been attempting to represent real socialism as some sort of closed society, based on secrecy, in which the authorities might even sacrifice the lives of their fellow citizens for political ends, by concealing the truth from them — in this case, the truth about the accident in the nuclear reactor and its consequences. This myth was strenuously inflated. Fantastic numbers of victims of intense radiation dosages were mentioned. It was asserted, for instance, that the power workers' town had been totally destroyed, and that the consequences of the accident were scarcely less serious than those of the bomb that exploded over Nagasaki. Those who had lied so irresponsibly had to bite their tongues immediately after the Soviet Government provided the ambassadors of a number of Western powers with information on what had occurred. Besides this, film of Chernobyl AES was shown on Soviet television, and those in the West who had dreamt up figures about thousands of deaths had to take them back. The Soviet data on the number of people affected are now no longer being challenged. Western public opinion has also undoubtedly been impressed by the figures on the free and urgent help being given to inhabitants within a 30-km radius of the station who have been hit by the disaster.

A statement published yesterday by the World Health Organization says that, in the opinion of its experts, there is no reason to recommend restricting imports from Eastern europe — the very thing the organizers of the anti-Soviet campaign had been recommending. The WHO statement says there are no grounds to advise people not to visit the USSR or the other countries of Eastern Europe — yet we know that tourists have been dissuaded, and even brought home from the Soviet Union. It was also noted that the way the incident has been reported in the Western media has aroused a reaction among the population that is undesirable and inappropriate to the real degree of danger. That is the competent assessment of the World Health Organization.

People's eyes are now being opened. People in the West have begun to see more clearly, now that they have found out the real facts about the accident at Chernobyl. They have understood that the United States, by sowing panic, wanted to quell apprehensions about the nuclear tests that the United States and the other nuclear powers are continuing to carry out — the apprehensions about the continuing arms race. Chernobyl has also made people think about what would happen if just one of the nuclear warheads the Americans have now stockpiled by the tens of thousands in Europe alone had exploded. What sort or radiation cloud would that be, and who would escape it?

The propaganda cloud has dispersed, but the question remains: People are asking, what do they intend to do in Washington and the other NATO capitals to save mankind from a global nuclear catastrophe? And to that question Washington, alas, has no answer.

U.S. 'Hypocrisy' Over Accident Assailed

PM081750 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 May 86 First Edition p 3

[TASS Correspondent A. Lyutyy article for *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA*: "Those People in the United States Who Stand To Gain From Organizing a Hysterical Spectacle Around the Accident at Chernobyl"]

[Text] Washington — For more than a week now a map of the world has appeared on U.S. television screens almost every hour. That map shows the whole of Western Europe as a thick red blob. Before the viewers' eyes that blob spreads to Asia, engulfing more and more countries. It becomes more terrifying as you watch.

It will be recalled that more or less the same red blob, on a far

smaller scale it is true, was used recently to illustrate to Americans Nicaragua's "expansionist schemes" and the "communist offensive" in Central America, which is on the point of reaching the U.S borders.

These blobs, of course, are products of the imagination of the TV companies' anti-Sovietists and all manner of consultants from the Reagan administration. When Americans need a good scare with the "Soviet threat," the producers of such shows splash out with the red paint.

It would seem that people are already becoming accustomed to this passion for painting the globe a toxic shade of red, a passion not marked by intellectual brilliance. It is by no means the first time that this method has been used here and it will not be the last. Nevertheless, the current anti-Soviet campaign is beating all records for hypocrisy and inhumanity.

The red blob spreading across the whole world is, apparently, not just a "Soviet threat," it is the "Soviet nuclear danger." It is the radiation allegedly released after the accident at the Chernobyl AES. You can understand why some people living in the western states of California, Oregon, and Washington, seeing these horrors on television, immediately rushed out to the local pharmacies to buy iodine solution and who are now scouring the stores in search of special protective suits....

It is perfectly clear to any unbiased person that the Washington administration has recently had an acute need for a diversionary maneuver which would enable it to stem the tide of anger in the world after the American buzzards' raid on Libya. It needed such a maneuver to divert the world's attention that bit more quickly from its inflexible and unconstructive position on the question of banning nuclear tests. The Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions and the USSR's other peace initiatives have received an extraordinarily large response. The White House has clearly decided to drown that response in a sea of anti-Soviet slander.

Photographs of the accident area, allegedly taken by intelligence satellites, are constantly being shown on television. Apart from large rivers and reservoirs it is impossible to make out anything definite in them. Nevertheless, squares and circles are drawn in thick white lines and "specialists" with thoughtful expressions present them as "evidence of colossal destruction" and "raging conflagrations." Right-wing groups, intoxicated with anti-Sovietism, have come out onto the streets and a gang of our country's enemies in Congress, headed by Representative Robert Walker (a Republican from Pennsylvania), has submitted a whole pile of provocative resolutions. Other unscrupulous congressmen have even gone so far as to accuse us of committing an "international crime." And that after the act of mass terror against Libya! Let us make particular mention of the theme of the gloating that is going on. It is obvious. They do not even try to hide it behind diplomatic formulas or even purely formal expressions of grief and sympathy. Rubbing their hands with glee, people across the ocean dream of how the Chernobyl accident will undermine the Soviet plans for the accelerated development and modernization of the economy and how it will hit the country's agriculture. They are particularly exultant at the fact that the accident occurred in the Ukraine, the USSR's granary. And there is not even a hint of shame or conscience in any of these spiteful predictions.

"Operation Chernobyl" has shown the criminal ease with which Western ruling circles try to make dishonest political capital out of tragedy. Did Soviet people revel in the catastrophe involving the seven astronauts on the "Challenger" shuttle in January? Did they whoop with delight after the catastrophe last Saturday involving the "Delta" launch vehicle carrying a weather satellite? No matter how they try to distort it, the fact remains that America greeted the 25th anniversary of the flight by Alan Shepard — the first U.S. astronaut to go into near-earth orbit — with three of the biggest disasters in the U.S. space program's history.

"Operation Chernobyl" has also illustrated the astonishing hypocrisy of the authorities here, who have accused the USSR of inadequate monitoring of safety equipment at the AES. They would do well to look at their own record here! The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has just published its annual report in which it acknowledges that last year U.S. nuclear power stations recorded the highest number of accidents in the past 6 years and that it was pure chance that some of them did not lead to dangerous leaks of radioactive materials. The administration tried to keep this report secret and only published it after persistent demands from Congressmen Edward Markey.The U.S. nuclear industry, the press here acknowledges, has surrounded itself with an almost impenetrable cloak of secrecy and inflicts punishment on anyone who tries to tell the general public the truth about the situation at America's nuclear power stations.

...The members of the Washington peace center, a well known public organization, study not only arms limitation problems but also nuclear power industry questions. I telephoned the center's headquarters. Heike Kleffner, a West German citizen, who is working for a while at the center, answered my call.

"In my view," she said, "President Reagan is not interested in real arms limitation, and the fuss about the Chernobyl incident is a convenient way of justifying his refusal to negotiate with the USSR on a constructive basis. For example, the demand is now being put forward virtually as an ultimatum to allow U.S. experts to visit Soviet AES's. But do you think that the Americans will allow Soviet experts to visit theirs? No way! It is clear that they are using the incident to denigrate the Soviet Union instead of turning this tragic event into a way of giving impetus to the struggle against the nuclear arms race. I hope that people of common sense will draw the correct lessons from what has happened, will not yield to hysteria, and will work to reduce nuclear arsenals."

Scare Stories Reportedly Ordered by Washington

LD082006 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 8 May 86

[Commentary by political observer Aleksandr Zholkver, from the "International Diary" program; presented by Sergey Pravdin]

[Text] What our Rome correspondent has just told us about [referring to previous commentary by Yuriy Vybornov on Rome media treatment of Chernobyl accident] is characteristic of many

countries in the West. Here, as if by order — and seemingly such an order was in effect given, and not just anywhere, but in Washington — all types of cock-and-bull stories were earnestly spread about the Chernobyl accident, stories used to intimidate people and to whip up anti-Soviet hysteria. But what is noteworthy is that in the last few days, in particular after the press conference in Moscow, they have begun to talk differently in a number of Western capitals. Thus, for example, the FRG minister of the interior — that same FRG where perhaps they have been shouting particularly loudly about the threat of Soviet radiation — has now officially announced that there has not been and will not be any danger for the population of West Germany. Moreover, the minister of state for the Federal Chancellor's office has even spoken out against the needless hysteria. Well, as the saying goes, better late than never.

I will add that a certain amount of sobering up is taking place at the moment not only in Bonn, but in other Western capitals as well. British Foreign Secretary Howe has come out, for example, with a warning about the fact that the accident at Chernobyl should not be used for anti-Soviet propaganda. A human misfortune, added the minister, should not be turned into a political game. That is a fair statement, particularly if one takes into account the fact that in some Western countries, including Britain, and the United States in particular, some politicians and journalists these last few days have been earnestly engaged in precisely such an unworthy political game, speculating on the natural anxiety of people. By the way, now even U.S. specialists, as AP reports, admit that the additional dose of radiation that West Europe received after the accident in Chernobyl is not great, and by way of example, is lower than the usual background radiation at great height, in particular during flights from Europe to the United States.

Regarding the United States itself, there the head of the Environmental Protection Agency long ago acknowledged that the health of the population is in no way threatened. It is true that, as it happens not infrequently in the United States, here and there the press and television have so intimidated people that they, to the delight of the pharmaceutical concerns, have rushed to buy all sorts of medicines with highly dubious properties. Now CBS itself announces that physicians are beginning to fear that the population may suffer not at all from radioactive irradiation, but from poisoning from pills.

And, by and large, experts from the World Health Organization who have gathered in Copenhagen have stated that there was an excessive reaction in the West to the accident in Chernobyl, and that although individual increases in radiation are possible, no long-term effect on people's health can be foreseen. But all the same I would add that a threat does exist — not the mythical threat of Soviet radiation, but, unfortunately, the quite real danger for the whole of mankind in connection with the accumulation of nuclear weapons on earth and attempts to place it even in space. The participants of the UN Disarmament Committee session, which has just opened in New York, talk about this with unconcealed alarm. They note that while the Soviet Union has proposed a specific plan for the total elimination of nuclear weapons in the forthcoming 15 years and has unilaterally stopped testing them, the United States continues to accelerate the nuclear arms race — and during the Soviet moratorium it has carried out nine nuclear blasts.

By the way, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, in one of its recent issues, has acknowledged that quite great leaks of radioactive gas occur at the Nevada test site. So, all the grounds are there for supposing that the hullabaloo in the West, in the United States itself first and foremost, around the Chernobyl accident, has had and does have the aim of diverting attention from the real threat: the threat of nuclear war.

Propaganda Contrasted With 'Competent' Views

LD091106 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0230 GMT 9 May 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vladimir Beloshapko]

[Text] Of course you know, comrades, of the measures being taken to liquidate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES. The central press publishes official government reports on this matter and reports by correspondents from the Chernobyl area every day. Despite the obvious normalization of the situation, many mass media organs in the West continue to wage a noisy, provocative, and essentially anti-Soviet propaganda campaign around this issue.

In this connection, I would like to mention a few competent views that raze to the ground the conjectures put forward, above all, by the U.S. propaganda machine. The representative of IAEA stated at a press conference that the IAEA was informed by the Soviet side of the accident and that the USSR has always cooperated closely with the agency. With regard to the radiation situation in Europe, the IAEA representative noted that he does not consider it dangerous to people's health.

Zimmermann, FRG minister of the interior, speaking on radio and television, said in particular that there has been no and there is no danger for us. The Danish paper *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* considers that the mass media clearly exaggerated the danger of the accident at the Chernobyl AES.

An increase in the level of radiation in Denmark of only 10 percent compared with the normal level was noted. This is 100,000 times less than the level that is considered dangerous.

The French paper *HUMANITE*, noting that Western propaganda tried to provoke panic among Soviet people, writes: It is difficult to remember a time when such a quantity of rumors have been scattered over the airwaves. However, none of this is getting the desired reaction. Soviet people are without doubt concerned, but they are calm, the paper stresses.

BULGARIA

Radiation Said Posing No Threat to Public Health

AU081237 Sofia BTA in English 1915 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Sofia, May 7 (BTA) — Prof Lyubomir Shinderov, corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, first deputy minister of public health, and sanitary inspector general, and senior research associate Ivan Pandev, M. Eng, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, appeared on national television here tonight to explain in detail the radiological situation in the country.

The two experts said that systematic monitoring has shown so far lowering radiation levels and that there is a tendency towards their normalization. Prof Shinderov and Mr Pandev specified that levels up to three times higher than the natural background radiation readings were registered only in separate areas after May 2, when there was a wind shift from the north. The level of radioactivity, its short-lived character, and the pronounced tendency towards normalization had given the health authorities no reason to recommend iodine prophylaxis.

Prof Shinderov stressed that no threat at all was posed to public health. Nobody in Bulgaria was exposed to significant doses of radiation, and the slightly increased levels, all the more only in separate areas, do not endanger the health of children, mothers, pregnant women or elderly people, he said.

Radiation levels in Bulgaria are expected to go back fully to normal in the coming days.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Prague TV Describes Scenes Near Chernobyl, Kiev

LD082256 Prague Television Service in Czech and Slovak 1730 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Let us take a look, on live TV, at how people evacuated from the Chernobyl area. These are shots from districts which are next to the area of the accident. This is the area to which the people from the town of Pripyat and a number of villages were evaucated. Consequently in these districts the number of inhabitants has substantially increased for — it is expected — 2 or 3 months. In this connection the local infrastructure has been reinforced. For example, even the number of telephones has substantially increased, including telephones for dialing throughout the USSR, as can be found in Kiev. Demands for such phones have multiplied. The Ministry of Communications has introduced a continuous service to suit all customers. A number of people have been moved in a hurry, and everyone must receive their letters. Naturally, relatives keep phoning, often from distant parts of the USSR. Chernobyl itself places a great demand on communications since the government commission is there; it makes a number of operative decisions, and for their implementation it asks help from different places in the USSR.

Evacuated livestock from kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and private plots have also found new homes. The districts that received evacuated citizens are supplied preferentially with everything they need, including fodder for livestock. According to information, all those evacuated have been given jobs and suitable accomodations. In the majority of cases, local people vacated parts of their homes for them.

The Kiev river port. Dozens of cargo and passenger ships leave it daily, either up or down the Dnepr, sometimes toward a barrage lake which locals call the Kiev Sea. The artificial lake covers 920 square kilometers. Pripyat river, which passes by Chernobyl, leads into it. There was concern that the water from the lake may be contaminated. Therefore ships now regularly leave the Kiev port to take water samples. Koval, chief officer of the local sanitary services, said that despite the natural initial concern, analysis of the water shows that it is within safe norms.

One hundred and thirty kilometers further north, work on liquidating the cause of the accident continues with intensity. Protective mounds were piled up along the river to protect it from pollution. Well-known academician Velikov, who works with a group of experts in Chernobyl, said to *PRAVDA* reporters that work continues, not only around the reactor but underneath it too. Our role is to neutralize the reactor entirely — as is said, to bury it. In his view the experts are now tackling problems which have never been confronted before.

The accident brings us many lessons, and not only for the experts. It shows us how bad a nuclear war could be. This accident is nothing in comparison.

Soviet Health Minister on Measures at Chernobyl

LD082023 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] A news conference was held today in Moscow at which leading Soviet experts spoke about cleaning up after the breakdown at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Stefan Simak reports:

[Simak] Investigations into the cause of the breakdown of the fourth block at the Chernobyl nuclear power station will take at least another 2 months. Soviet experts agree, however, that most likely there was a heat explosion in the reactor after the overheating of steam as a result of a technical fault or incorrect procedures by the attending personnel. A nuclear explosion would have destroyed surrounding buildings and would have caused great damage to grass.

Yevgeniy Vorobyev, deputy minister of health of the Soviet Union, said that health workers are making extensive checks on all citizens who were evacuated from the 30 kilometer radius. They have, however, found no serious organic changes of any of them. The best medical care is being given to 204 hospitalized energy workers and firemen who were working during the time of the accident at the nuclear power station. With the participation of American professor Gale and Tarasaki six of the affected people have had bone marrow transplants. A third worker at the power station died in the evening in Kiev as a result of radiation.

The greatest danger for the health of the people is caused by

iodine 131 which escaped into the atmosphere. The period of its decomposition is, however, only 8 and 1/2 days. Strict hygenic norms and controls can insure that the iodine does not enter the human organism in milk or in fresh vegetables.

(?Around) the station they are at the same time taking measures so that rain does not wash the radioactive materials into the waterways. The level of radiation around the power station is continuously falling and according to Soviet experts it does not represent any danger for people in a wider radius. This fact was also confirmed today by the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix, who acquainted himself with the situation in Chernobyl itself.

Prague Contrasts Shultz Remarks, 'Evidence'
LD061139 Prague International Service in Czech and Slovak 2230 GMT 6 May 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On behalf of the USSR Government, the Soviet press agency TASS on Sunday expressed gratitude to all who expressed sympathy and understanding and who offered assistance to the Soviet Union in connection with the accident in the Chernobyl AES. However, the offer of sincere help is not the only reaction which the accident has evoked in the world; the other reaction is discussed in the following commentary:

Sensible people everywhere in the world understand that accidents can happen anywhere and that no one is immune to them. Despite this, some Western circles literally exploited the accident in the Chernobyl AES to launch an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign. Yesterday, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe spoke about this campaign with some concern in a BBC telephone interview from Tokyo. He expressed hope that the natural expression of concern would not grown into an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign. However, a campaign has already begun and is continuing.

At the same time that the British foreign secretary was speaking from Tokyo, his U.S. colleague George Shultz was speaking in Tokyo with the U.S. ABC television station. In his interview, Shultz once again cast doubt on Soviet information about the accident, saying that the Americans have other information on this. However, the evidence shows the opposite: Each measurement carried out, from checks of Western citizens in the Ukraine, to checkS for radioactivity in fish caught by Danish fishing vessels near the USSR shore, to atmospheric checks, has shown the same negative results . The fabrications about the thousands of dead, the alleged panic among the population of the Ukraine, and the claims that the United States has its own information simply add to the arsenal of those for whom the spirit of trust and detente are alien and for whom the fanning of hostility among nations is an undeniable practice.

In addition, Swedish Government experts have criticized the measures introduced in many Western states, calling them exaggerated reaction. There surely has been an exaggerated reaction to the accident, but from the political point of view this reaction has been carefully calculated to gain political capital from the accident. First of all, there is an attempt to use the accident to undermine the trust in the Soviet peace policy and to undermine the prospects of the U.S.-USSR disarmament talks, which will resume this week in Geneva. By the same token there is an attempt to divert the attention from accidents [as heard] which — unlike the one at Chernobyl — have been caused deliberately. These include, for example, the U.S. nuclear blasts in Nevada, and of course the U.S. feverish arms buildup, including in space. These U.S. Governmental circles are not interested in people's health; they only want to continue with this policy which poisons the entire international atmosphere.

Chernobyl 'Hysteria' Further Divides East, West
AU061131 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 5 May 86 p 5

[Julius P. Loerincz commentator in the 'Word on the Events' column; "Background of Shameful Hysteria"]

[Text] In January 1986, after the explosion of the American space shuttle challenger, in which seven people perished, when the American CBS television network commentator asked one of the experts of the American NASA center for aeronatuics and space research what his first thought was after hearing the report on the catastrophe, the expert replied; "I thought: The Russians will be glad, it will be a holiday for them" This angry expression of anti-Sovietism was followed by television shots of reportage from the streets of Moscow; and a woman worker from one of the plants in the Soviet capital replied to that very same question: "When something like this happens, it is no longer important whether we are Russians, or Americans; we are all simply people. We feel sorrow for those who have perished, and we share the grief of their close relatives...."

After the many expressions of commiseration from the Soviet Union and after the Soviet cartographers had named two craters on Venus after the two tragically perished participants in the challenger flight, Christa McAuliffe and Judith Resnik, there was even talk in America about the "Russians' surprising gestures." The decent and normal expressions of commiseration surprised those who are branded by the ideological influence of some kind of tertiary and sick anti-Sovietism. They cannot, and frequently even do not want to, grasp that this is neither exceptional, nor extraordinary for us.

It is hard to reconcile oneself to the human sacrifices in pioneering work on the road of progress in science and technology, too; but this is the price to pay for getting to know the unknown, for searching for new horizons of perfection, for achieving new possibilities of making use of the natural resources of the earth and of the surrounding outer space for the benefit of mankind. The price, of course, the greatness of the risk which we are striving to diminish.

What is surprising, these days, even shocking is the absolute lack of this very same human sympathy on the part of the West in connection with the tragic accident in the Soviet nuclear power station in Chernobyl. And "lack" is a very weak word. The formally voiced condolences are followed by a wave of hysteria, a slanderous anti-Soviet campaign which is flooding the world from the United States and other NATO countries, combined

with what is almost a terror of intimidation of the population. Although all radioactivity measurements in areas outside the immediate 30-km radius around the Chernobyl nuclear power station and in countries neighboring the USSR, as well as in more distant ones — measurements which have been confirmed by the IAEA in Vienna — show that not the slightest danger is threatening man and his environments, the atmosphere of panic on our continent is quite intentionally provoked. It can be said that an attempt is even being made to erect a kind of new "iron curtain" between the East and the West.

The fabriciations and deceit are boundless. TASS commentator Sergey Kulik wrote that, at one time, gentlemen whose deceit had been unmasked used to fire a bullet into their heads in order to save their honor. The authors of the current lies who, contrary to facts, are claiming that not two, but two thousand people had perished and that the radiation level from the Chernobyl nuclear power station is "2,000 times stronger than during the explosion of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima," obviously have no longer anything to save. In Tokyo, at the summit conference of the seven most important capitalist countries, they would like to turn Chernobyl into a world problem. At the same time they are keeping silent about the fact that not the nuclear power stations, but the test nuclear explosions and the feverish nuclear armament have brought the world so far that the present potential of nuclear arms could destroy human civilization more than 60 times over. This is the main and fatal problem of the world.

But this is the very thing that the organizers of the present hysteria would like to distract attention from. They would like to try and make the world forget that during the last 9 months the Soviet Union has unilaterally not once carried out underground nuclear tests, whereas the United States has several times torpedoed the generous Soviet peace initiative with the moratorium nuclear tests by its Nevada tests. The apostles of imperialism's military-industrial complex, above all American ones, would like the world to forget that Washington has rejected the Soviet comprehensive proposal to eliminate all nuclear arms by the end of this century, a proposal which is both understandable to everybody, and realistic. Washington would like the nations to forget the ruthless American attack on Libya, and to relax their vigiliance toward preparations for new American aggressions against Nicaragua and the people and states of the Near and Middle East.

The set of Soviet disarmament measures provides an opportunity for a positive way out of the dilemma between perdition and survival, and also the possibility to release immense means for resolving mankind's many serious problems. These include the insurance of sufficient sources of energy, including nuclear power — this enormous force which is both destructive and creative. The main thing is that it should serve solely peaceful purposes.

Deplorably, nobody is at present insured against accidents similar to that in Chernobyl, not even the United States — we may recall only some of the accidents on U.S. territory during the past fe years, for instance in Harrisburg, Zion, South Carolina. The Soviet Government authorities will draw conclusions from the Chernobyl accident, which will benefit the entire world community. And, as was said by Boris Yeltsin, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member, at the eighth congress of the German Communist Party, the Soviet Government "is doing everything to remove the consequences of the accident and, in the spirit of the implementation of the energy program, to force the atom to serve peaceful purposes in the future too." The Soviet Union and the other socialist states have affirmed time and again that they are in favor of a constructive cooperation of states also in this sphere — that they are in favor of cooperation in the name of mankind's secure and peaceful future.

RUDE PRAVO Denounces 'Hysterical Campaign'

AU061126 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 4 May 86 p 6

[Zdenek Horeni commentary in the "We Comment" column: "About Events in Chernobyl"]

[Text] The accident at one of the reactors of the nuclear power station in Chernobyl in the Ukraine has for quite natural reasons immediately become the object of general international attention. Expressions of sincere sympathy are being sent to the Soviet Government. The energetic intervention of the appropriate Soviet authorities and the selfless struggle of Soviet experts and rescue services in localizing the source of radioactive radiation that escaped as a result of the accident are being praised.

In essence, this extraordinary occurrence is a misfortune [nestesti] that affects people and, in a way, also scientific -technical progress, the significant economic effort of the Soviet society. Quite naturally, the attitude of the international public should also proceed from this aspect. One cannot help noticing, however, that, since the moment the TASS report on the Chernobyl accident flew around the world, this extraordinary and unfortunate event has become a springboard for impudent speculations, for an accumulation of lies and slanders. Certain Western press agencies have even begun to spread false claims about 2,000-3,000 dead, despite the Soviet Government statement giving specific data about the number of dead and injured.

In Washington some people in high places are even abusing this extraordinary event — the first in the history of Soviet nuclear energetics — for political extortion against the Soviet Union, trying to create a political problem in international relations from the misfortune. At the same time Washington is showing a surprising forgetfulness. As though there have not been similar accidents in the United States! It is only 7 years since the big accident at the nuclear power plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, when radioactive matter also escaped. There were other incidents in nuclear facilities later, too, and in other countries.

The leading circles of certain NATO countries — apart from the United States, mainly in the United Kingdom, — are striving to whip up around the Chernobyl accident what literally amounts to hysteria. Yes, hysteria. This is how a Canadian student called it — we quote his words in *RUDE PRAVO* of 1 May — when he disagreed with his being recalled from Kiev where he is studying.

There is no doubt about the background of the hysterical campaign of the past few days. In the first place it is based on anticommunism and anti-Sovietism, on the notorious effort to muddy international relations and slander the Soviet Union and the world of socialism whenever some pretext can be found, even

a misfortune. Moreover, in the case of the Chernobyl accident,we can see obvious efforts to drive a wedge between the Soviet Union and other European peoples, above all its closest neighbors. Finally, we also have here a transparent attempt to divert attention from today's real issues of substance, which are being urgently raised in the international arena precisely by the Soviet Union, such as the ban on all nuclear tests and chemical weapons, to say nothing of the well-known set of proposals regarding nuclear and conventional arms.

The stormy scientific-technical progress brings with it not only the successes of the discoverers of the unknown. It also brings with it sacrifices, both material and human. No scientific field, no sector of human activity is an exception. All mankind's progress has to be paid for — and even by human sacrifices. Even the discovery of electricity from traditional sources involved tragedies among the ranks of both its discoverers and users. And the same situation exists to this very day. Even when conquering space, or other spheres of human research, man has not been able to evade a tragic toll — let us recall, for instance, the accident that occurred on the 25th — it might already appear to have been well-tested — the launching of the American space shuttle.

As regards this human toll, even the explorers in the sphere of nuclear energetics are no exception, despite the extraordinary and extremely costly safety measures that are being taken. Without delving into the technical details of such a complicated and extraordinary event as an accident in a nuclear power station, one can truthfully say that man's fight to master all the forces of nature can never be considered concluded. Many "freaks of chance" and many hidden snares continue to be an obstacle in man's way...

In times like these, the Soviet Union's friends are standing at its side with full understanding; and not merely with expressions of sincere sympathy, but — above all — with feelings of unbreakable faith that it is exactly the Soviet Government that is doing everything it can to place at man's service the sources of nature that surround us. So that it can force the atom, too — this source of immense power, a force that is both destructive and creative — to serve peace, and only peace.

This is the essential thing, this is the background of the Soviet people's decisive effort. Herein also lies the reply to the question about the background of the hysteria whipped up by certain circles in the capitalist world around the events in Chernobyl.

HUNGARY

Szuros Speaks at National Peace Council Session

LD081349 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 8 May 86

[Report on speech by Matyas Szuros, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, at a National Peace Council session in the Budapest Congress Hall; date not specified — passages in boldface recorded]

[Text] The festive session of the National Peace Council opened the peace and friendship series of events. Ilona Banki reports on the meeting at the Congress Hall of parliament:

The participants were greeted by Mrs Nandor Sebestyen, chairman of the National Peace Council and deputy president of the World Peace Council. In her opening speech she spoke about the significance of VE day, recalling the events that had taken place 4 decades ago and paying tribute to the memories of the victims. Speaking about the present, she said an important task of peace fighters is to turn the current International Peace Year into a year of radical change, into an event expressing the strengthening of confidence, understanding, and cooperation, and the joint effective action of peace-loving states and peoples.

After the chairman's oepning speech, Matyas Szuros, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, approached the rostrum. He said that one of the historical paradoxes of our age is that, while a significant proportion of peoples and even governments stand for peace and security, the threat of the arms race and war, instead of abating, is becoming more intense from day to day. Matyas Szuros pursued this theme further:

[Szuros] *A characteristic feature of the early 1980's was mankind living in unceasing fluctuations between hope and anxiety. In international relations, the strengthening of rivalry and a conscious intensification of tensions appeared simultaneously and parallel to one another along with the recognition of interdependence, the dangers accompanying confrontation, and of an endeavor to limit the arms build-up and resolve disputed international questions by negotiations. Developments burdened with danger and those eliciting hope alternated.*

The grinding to a halt of the development of East-West relations, the rise of mistrust, the Soviet-U.S. tension that has become permanent, and the acceleration of the arms race accentuated, in the early 1980's, the unpredictability in international relations. At the same time, the resumption of dialogue between the two leading superpowers, the dynamic initiatives of Soviet foreign policy and the other socialist countries, the realistic attitude of sober-minded bourgeois political factors, and the survival of the system of institutions of the Helsinki process gave rise to the hope of an improvement in the international situation."

The Central Committee secretary then spoke about the domestic tasks of the Hungarian peace movement:

[Szuros] *I believe that one of the fundamental preconditions for popularizing our peace endeavors at home and for getting them accepted in as wide a circle as possible is honest and open talk and the acceptance of publicity. It is the inaliable right of everyone to be able to understand and to be aware of what goes on in the world and in his more narrow surroundings. Honest and open dialogue is also necessitated by the anxiety that can be seen among a wide range of people and arises as a result of certain consequences of the scientific-technological revolution, which is increasingly influencing our daily lives.*

The peace movement is not an heir to the Luddite tradition. It says yes to scientific progress, but at the same time it must also take into account, and deal with, the fear living in people, which can be justified or unfounded, whether it is connected with the

environmentally damaging effect of nuclear tests serving direct military objectives, or of a regretful catastrophe at a nuclear power plant.

Following Matyas Szuros' speech, the festive session of the National Peace Council is continuing with contributions from the floor.

NEPSZABADSAG Cited on Chernobyl 'Manipulations'

LD071002 Budapest MTI in English 0857 GMT 7 May 86

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Budapest, May 7 (MTI) — "We have no intention to convince the reader that what happened in Chernobyl is merely a harmless episode in the history of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Such an attempt would be doomed to failure, as would endeavours to exaggerate the case and use it for the service of particular political interests, runs an article in the Wednesday issue of *NEPSZABADSAG*.

There are numerous examples in the history of press to show how short-lived some reports and commentaries are, but now we only quote an American colleague, the Moscow correspondent of the *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, as writing in the May 5 issue of the newspaper. 'Months, maybe even years have to pass until we learn what really happened in Chernobyl, (the report begins, suggesting perhaps that there is no sufficient information available on the event. But with the elapse of 24 hours, an on-scene report was published in *PRAVDA* in confirmation of the official Soviet statements and carrying further details. It said that the explosion had occurred in the Reactor Bloc No 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear plant on April 26, the blast caused fire and two people died and 204 were injured in the accident. Nevertheless, the U.S. CBS television company refused to accept the official Soviet communique and, referring to the information of 'a woman from Kiev', it spoke about '2,000 casualties'. Even State Secretary George Shultz said, 'I will bet ten dollars that the casualty list given by the Soviets does not match facts.' The bet was not considerable, and losing it was obviously not too painful to Shultz. A day later, a British Embassy staffer in Moscow said to REUTERS that the story about 2,000 casualties was a rumour.

"This is just to indicate the rapid spreading of reports and rumours in the West about the melting of reactor(s) and Gamma radiation. An increase in radiation levels beyond the borders of the Soviet Union was first observed in Sweden, where the first precautions were taken, which have since been lifted. Restrictions have just been announced in other West European countries. In Italy a two-week ban was imposed on locally grown vegetable and fruit sales, alarming the population and causing no small damage to peasants at a time when radiation levels hardly differ from the normal.

This is perhaps the reason why the Common Market standing Committee decided to introduce unified control, 'lest the crisis serve as a basis for protectionist measures that restrict free trade,' writes the AFP news agency.

"Nevertheless, the concern of people in Kiev and Chicago, Budapest and Rome is justified, as our age is ridden with the hazard of disasters, although it is not the accident of a nuclear plant for peaceful uses that carries the biggest danger.

"Yet, what accounts for the conduct of leading politicians responsible for the fate of tens of hundreds of millions, who — as the participants in the Tokyo capitalist summit — devote a separate statement to the Chernobyl accident and set demands for the Soviet Union which they have never met?

"In the United States, for instance, last year 2,974 accidents were recorded in 100 civilian reactors, 20 percent more than the year before. One can wonder at the calls for 'prompt information' and 'international inspection', when *THE WASHINGTON POST* says that the 1979 'mysterious overheating' at the Pennsylvania nuclear plant was not commented on by the American Authorities for three weeks, and the causes of the accident have not been investigated up to the present day.

"Of course, Chernobyl also has its lessons and, as the Soviet side stressed, the necessary conclusions will be drawn after the investigations, including safety meaures, international cooperation to overcome dangers carried by similar accidents, or the improvement of the international information service. The same intention is reflected by the Moscow talks with leaders of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"It is obvious that the peaceful use of nuclear energy is an international affair of greater importance than to enable some circles to use it for their political ends, inadmissible manipulations and the poisoning of the international atmosphere. Such attempts meet with the aversion of all people of good will," concludes the commentary in *NEPSZABADSAG*.

POLAND

Warsaw Reports on USSR Press Conference on Chernobyl

LD081848 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 8 May 86

[Unidentified correspondent's report from Moscow]

[Text] During a meeting with journalists, USSR First Deputy Health Minister Yevgeniy Vorobyev reported that of 204 people who were in the area of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident, 18 were in serious condition, including five who were very serious. In spite of doctors' efforts the third victim has died in a Kiev hospital. The cause was a high dose radiation. Five people are being treated in specialist hospitals in Moscow. Consulting assistance is being provided by two American doctors who have arrived in the Soviet Union, Professors Gale and Terasaki.

Yevgeniy Vorobyev also declared that all residents within a 30-km radius zone in the vicinity of the power station and who had been evacuated, had been medically examined and, above all, had had their blood tested. Except for a group of people who had been close to the place of the accident, no changes in them were found.

Yuriy Sedunov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, who was taking part in the conference, also reported that competent services were taking systematic measurements of contamination throughout the Soviet Union. Yuriy Sedunov also said that under the effects of winds and air currents some of the contaminated air mass resulting from the Chernobyl accident passed over Poland and also over Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia. A higher degree of radiation was recorded in those states, but it did not present danger to human health. In the Soviet Union higher radiation was recorded among other places in Kiev and in the south of the country. However, these phenomena presented no danger.

Soviet media carry many reports by their correspondent from the vicinity of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. TASS journalists write that real struggle against the elements is in progress in the area of the nuclear power station — planned struggle, supported with the results of scientists' and specialists' research. The damaged reactor is continually showered with sand, clay, lead and boron. Unfortunately, the struggle against radioactivity is not over yet and is still in progress. It is being conducted by thousands of people. The building up of the banks of the Pripyat River and the dismantling of a 200-meter bridge, along which the population had been evacuated, are also in progress.

A government commission is at work at the rayon party committee in Chernobyl. This is where all the information arrives and where decisions, which are immediately implemented, are reached. According to Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, nobody has had to deal with a similar accident. The extreme situation, he emphasized, required the solution of problems never before encountered by scientists or specialists.

In their report, *IZVESTIYA* journalists describe the living conditions of the evacuated population, emphasizing that at present more than 90 percent of the children are regularly attending school. The *IZVESTIYA* journalists also write that the events in Chernobyl have also had an effect on the lives of the inhabitants of Kiev. As purely preventive measures a swimming pool has been closed in the city and the street sales of ice cream have stopped. All produce brouht to markets is being checked for radioactivity. Kiev schools also look different as there are no usual crowds of children in their sports grounds. Teachers are making sure that children stay indoors in accordance with doctors' recommendations. The possibility of declaring earlier summer vacations is also being considered.

Soviet Minister Says Five Victims in Serious Danger

LD081439 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish
1400 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Work is continuing in the region of the Chernobyl atomic power station with the aim of liquidating the consequences of the emission of radioactive substances.

During a meeting with journalists, Yevgeniy Vorobyev, the first deputy minister of health of the USSR, stated today that of the 204 persons who were in the vicinity of the breakdown [awaria] 18 are in danger, 5 of them seriously.

In the Kiev hospital, despite efforts by doctors, a third victim has died. The cause was the large dose of radiation received. As is known, the first two people died as a result of burns and injuries sustained directly as a result of the disaster [katastrofa]. Five people are being treated in specialist hospitals in Moscow. Consultative help is being given by two U.S. doctors who have come to the Soviet Union: Professors Gale and (?Trasakin).

Yevgeniy Vorobyev also said that all persons living in the region of the power station and evacuated from a 30-mile radius have undergone medical tests and, above all, blood tests.

ROMANIA

Radioactivity Lower in Some, Higher in Other Areas

AU051902 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1829 GMT 5 May 86

["From the Party and State Environmental Monitoring and Control Commission" — AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 5/5/1986 — According to the measurements conducted throughout Romania, radioactivity dropped continually on May 4 and 5, 1986, in some of the affected areas, Bucharest city included, owing to a favourable air circulation.

In other areas, radioactivity is higher, without posing any danger to the population's health.

The evolution of radioactivity is permanently monitored by the relevant stations and laboratories and the population will be further notified until it falls back to acceptable limits across the country's territory.

YUGOSLAVIA

Radiation Levels Continue To Fall in Belgrade

LD080836 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0706 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Belgrade, 8 May (TANJUG) — Air radioactivity in and around Belgrade continues to fall. Measurements carried out near the Boris Kidric Institute in Vinca at 0600 GMT this morning showed radiation to be 67.7 microroentgens per hour.

Radiation Decreasing Throughout Nation

LD082300 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian
2000 GMT 8 May 86

["Chronicle of the Day" program]

[Text] Here are details on radiation today in our country. Reports from all areas of Yugoslavia show that radiation is continuing to decrease. In Zagreb, at a session of the commission of experts for monitoring radioactive contamination of the Croatian Republican Committee for Health and Social Welfare, it was said that basic radiation measured 66 microroentgens an hour, while the

concentration of Iodine-131 in the air was 1.61 Becquerels per cubic meter. Radioactive contamination will continue for some time. Radioactive iodine is gradually disappearing from the atmosphere because of its natural disintegration, and after about y weeks it will completely disappear. Other elements contribute very little to the overall dose of radiation. Analysis of drinking water shows that this is not contaminated. Since rain is expected, citizens are advised to prevent rain water from getting into cisterns. Eggs, meat, and meat products can be used without any restrictions. Examinations of citizens who spent the May Day holiday in the countryside or on excursions in other countries have revealed that the dose of radiation received has had no effect on their health. No one should take iodine preparations as a preventive measure, nor are special examinations of our citizens at medical institutions necessary.

According to information from Slovenia, in this republic the level of radiation has not changed significantly in comparison with yesterday. Thus all preventive measures and recommendations for protection against possible consequences of radiation are still in force. This was concluded at today's session of the coordination group in the Republican Committee for Health and Social Welfare.

Examining the state of the contamination of the biosphere in the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Executive Council of the Assembly of this republic stated that in all municipalities and in the town of Sarajevo all measures of preventive protection have been taken in keeping with the degree of danger to the region. In this connection the activity of the organs, organizations and communities in informing working people and citizens on the preventive measures taken for protection against possible consequences of radiation were positively assessed.

Soviet Officials Update Situation Around Chernobyl
LD081448 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1405 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 8 (TANJUG) — There are no indications by now that radiation from the leak-affected Lenin nuclear power plant at Chernobyl contains other dangerous elements save Iodine-131 and Iodine-132, Yevgeniy Vorobyev, deputy Soviet public health minister, and Yuriy Sedunov, vice-chairman of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology, told a group of foreign correspondents here today.

This claim is based on so-far analyses, it was stated precisely, but this does not rule out the possibility of finding other dangerous elements on the accident site such as strontium or caesium. Soviet physicists are optimists, however, and consider that this would be not so high quantities as to "additionally poison the already contaminated zone."

The situation at Chernobyl has been getting stable by degrees for all that the focus of radiation has not yet been neutralized, but the on-the-spot radioactivity has a "tendency of mild decrease." This is why the banks of the Pripyat River and accumulation lakes immediately close to Chernobyl are being decontaminated now.

As to radioactivity in other areas close to Chernobyl, the situation is also being "step-by-step stabilized," the Soviet officials said. In Kiev and Gomel, two cities relatively close to the leak-affected plant, the radiation level was 0.3 milliroentgens this morning and 0.4 in other closer regions. In the opinion of Soveit medical experts, this is no dose that should "upset the population."

Nation Suffers Heavy Losses Due to Chernobyl
LD081734 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1629 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Belgrade, May 8 (TANJUG) — Radiation brought about through a nuclear power plant leak in the Ukraine keeps decreasing in Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Federal Committee for Labour, Public Health, and Social Security said in its communique here today.

According to measurements in Belgrade, radiation amounted to 45 microroentgens an hour today.

On account of intensified radioactivity, the leak at the Soviet nuclear power plant at Chernobyl has inflicted heavy losses on Yugoslavia's agriculture, particularly on vegetable and milk producers, it was said at today's session of the Yugoslav Committee for Supervising Works in Agriculture.

For the time being it is unknown whether the intensified radioactivity will affect this year's yields of wheat and other agricultural products, it was said.

Keeping the Yugoslav market supplied with agricultural products, being upset for radioactive contamination, is slowly returning to normal. Being marketed are large quantities of frozen fruits and vegetables and fresh provisions are being transported inlands from Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast it having not been irradiated because of its specific geographical position and winds.

Workers in USSR Given Medical Examinations
LD081416 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1317 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 8 (TANJUG) — Yugoslav experts are carrying out comprehensive measurements on the site of a steel works project at Zhlobin, a Belorussian town 150 km north of Chernobyl, to determine radiactive contamination of air, nearby land, the site itself and the machines.

Last Tuesday a team of five radiation experts and doctors with most up-to-date equipment arrived in Zhlobin, where 570 workers of the Yugoslav Komgrap Enterprise are engaged in the project. Their manager, Dragoljub Melic, said that the work on the site, resumed last Monday, was proceeding normally.

Melic also said the measurements so far indicated no danger of increased radioactivity. All workers underwent complete medical examination and were interviewed both in groups and individually to obtain the fullest possible picture of the situaiton and

definitively decide on the need for taking possible protection measures.

Yugoslav experts are working together with a similar team from Austria, since Austrian workers are also engaged in the project. Both teams daily cooperate with local medical services, and final results of their work are expected to be announced in four days at the latest.

Performance on the site and general mood of the workers are reported to be good.

Zagreb Institute Demands Ban on New Nuclear Plants
LD081321 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1220 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Zagreb, May 8 (TANJUG) — The city institute for health protection in Zagreb, Yugoslavia's second city, has demanded a ban on the construction of new nuclear power plants in Yugoslavia.

An explanation of the motion, carried by the daily *BORBA* today, says that accidental emission of radioactive materials from nuclear installations poses a problem that has not been adequately solved anywhere in the world. The institute also raised the issue of nuclear waste storage, another problem to which a definitive answer has not been found.

The institute's demand coincides with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Union, but is also a continuation of the heated debate in this country over the past few months on whether nuclear plants should be built, or if existing energy sources should be used more rationally and alternatives other than nuclear power sought.

It is believed here that the Chernobyl accident will be used as a new, potent argument by opponents of nuclear power. It will probably put into question a plan under which Yugoslavia should start building four nuclear plants by the end of the century. An international tender for the first plant in the series was put out last year.

Yugoslavia has only one nuclear plant, at Krsko in Slovenia, at which there have been no accidents.

A definitive decision on the nuclear power program in Yugoslavia is to be taken by the Federal Government. Following the latest events, however, it is not at all certain whether it will be willing to take the responsibility of implementing the program.

Nuclear power opponents demand a national referendum on the issue.

Government Not Yet Considering Damage Claim
LD081411 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1335 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Belgrade, May 8 (TANJUG) — The Yugoslav Government has not so far considered the possibility of compensation from the Soviet authorities for losses incurred through destruction of agricultural products on account of radiation brought about by an accident at the Soviet nuclear power plant at Chernobyl, Aleksandar Stanic, official press spokesman for the Yugoslavi Federal Secretariat for foreign Affairs, told his press conference here today.

USSR Agrees 'In Principle' to Chernobyl Monitoring
LD081427 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1403 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 8 (TANJUG) — General Director of the U.N. International Atomic Agency Hans Blix left here this morning for Chernobyl accompanied by two associates where he will inspect the damaged Soviet Nuclear power plant "Lenin". On his return tomorrow Blix will hold a press conference in Moscow.

Soviet official sources report that Blix has proposed to the Soviet Government an immediate installation of a station equipped with latest instruments for checking radio activity levels at the site of the "Lenin" plant. The station would give readings on radio activity levels several times a day and the International Atomic Agency would forward the data to all interested countries. Official sources confirm that the Soviet Government has already agreed in principle to Hans Blix' proposal.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

EEC Suspends Meat, Livestock Imports From E. Europe

AU081449 Paris AFP in English
1443 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Brussels, May 8 (AFP) — The European Economic Community (EEC) has suspended all meat imports, as well as those of live cows and pigs, from seven countries in Eastern Europe that may be contaminated with radioactivity from the stricken Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl, Community sources said here Thursday.

The ban, to remain in effect until May 31, will affect imports from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia.

EEC governments are to rule by Friday morning on other items, including live sheep, fowl, fresh dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables and freshwater fish, that were part of lists proposed by the Community's 12 permanent delegates here as well as its executive commission.

AUSTRIA

Measures Taken Against Radioactive Contamination

AU061915 Vienna ORF Teletext in German
1743 GMT 6 May 86

[Excerpts] Vienna/Innsbruck — The radioactivity level after the reactor disaster of Chernobyl is still elevated in Austria.

Checks of the Innsbruck market authority showed life-threatening radioactivity levels in sheep milk. In the afternoon the radioactivity level of the soil in Innsbruck was four times above. Public open air swimming pools and open areas of indoor swimming pools closed until further notice.

Education Minister Moritz called upon schools to refrain from any outdoor activities.

In a press release Moritz announced that civilian and self-protection information centers will be established on a trial basis in about 50 towns. There centers will start their work on 14 and 15 June. If these facilities prove their worth, such information centers will be established in each town.

In Vienna sand was removed from the sandboxes of playing grounds today. Fresh sand will be supplied only after the "all clear."

Vienna's mayor, Helmut Zilk, issued an ordinance today according to which ships from the East bloc are permitted to unload only after it is certain that the cargo is not radioactively contaminated.

In Vienna air filters from the Stephansplaty subway station and from several subway trains were changed. The fire brigade will store the filters that have been contaminated with radioactive dust until the radioactive emanation has decreased.

The director of the Austrian Dairy and Cheese Association, Glas, said today that in case of a crisis Austria can be supplied with milk powder for 3 weeks.

Ban Declared on East Bloc Food Imports

AU041437 Vienna ORF Teletext in German
1406 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Vienna — Yesterday Health Minister Kreuzer ordered an import ban on milk, milk products, fruit, and vegetables from the USSR, Hungary, the CSSR, Bulgaria, Poland, and Romania. This is to ensure that no radioactivity contaminated foodstuffs reach the Austrian market.

On Sunday afternoon the health minister emphatically requested the provincial governors to prohibit pasturing and feeding [with green fodder] milk cows.

In Styria, Tirol, and Lower Austria appropriate prohibitions are already in force.

In Carinthia and Upper Austria urgent recommendations have been issued to refrain from feeding with green fodder and rain water.

The province of Salzburg, however, in an extraordinary session withdrew its ban on pasturing milk cows, which had been in force since 0000 today, as "useless and unfeasible."

Provincial Governor Haslauer said milk is regularly checked so that it is absolutely certain that no contaminated milk is sold. Milk producers are recommended to abstain from feeding with green fodder.

Further Restrictions

AU060739 Vienna ORF Teletext in German
0712 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Vienna — Yesterday Health Minister Kreuzer instructed all provincial governors to ban sales of vegetables grown outdoors.

Pertinent ordinances have been in effect in Salzburg since yesterday evening and in Vienna since midnight. The ban applies to domestic vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, cabbage, savoy cabbage, parsley, cauliflower, leguminour crops, and tomatoes.

At the same time imports of this produce from Bulgaria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, Romania, the CSSR and the USSR, and Hungary have been banned.

In addition, people should abstain from bathing in open air pools and children should not engage in open air sports.

IAEA Says USSR Authorities 'Very Cooperative'

AU071718 Paris AFP in English
1705 GMT 7 May 86

[Excerpt] Vienna, May 7 (AFP) — Soviet officials are being "very cooperative" with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general Hans Blix, in Moscow to look into April 26 Chernobyl accident, an IAEA spokesman said here Wednesday.

Mr. Blix is accompanied by two experts — a Soviet and an American — who are gathering information on the accident, which according to the Soviet authorities, killed two and injured 197.

The IAEA chief arrived in Moscow Monday and was met by members of the Soviet State Atomic Energy Committee and nuclear experts, the spokesman said.

He was not yet visited Chernobyl, 133 kilometers (83 miles) north of Kiev, and the duration of his visit is not yet known, the spokesman said, adding that Mr. Blix would hold a news conference on his return here.

FINLAND

Foreign Ministry Denies Information Delay on Accident

LD081351 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish
1300 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has denied the idea that our country has delayed giving information about the Cherbobyl nuclear power station accident. The ministerial statement stresses that Finnish officials gave the (?reported) measurements of radiation immediately after the report came from (?Sweden) on the Monday of the accident, from radiation measurements taken there.

The (?Foreign Ministry) says cooperation with Sweden has been continuous. Contacts with the Soviet Union Concerned Finnish officials' (?plan) to evacuate the Finns from Kiev. The statement stresses that Finland was the first country to evacuate its citizens. However the ministry does admit that the experience is a cause for Finland to tighten up communications in future both with the Soviet Union and within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Interior Minister Kaisa Raatikainen also reported on information relating to radiation measurements this afternoon to the press. Raatikainen also stressed that officials had at no stage (?withheld) information from citizens.

[Begin Taatikainen recording] Although [words indistinct]. A future warning will be taken from this. Apparently there is a need also to develop the information system so that the country's leading bodies will be (?given) information to disseminate as early as possible. [Words indistinct] will not necessarily be sent yet, nor will reasons be (?explained). The government has already started preparations to develop the systems on the basis of these (?experiences).

FRANCE

Radioactivity Over Nation Normal for Last 2 Days

LD081537 Paris Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] For 2 days now, the level of radioactivity in the air over France has been back to normal. This was indicated today by the prime minister's spokesman Denis Baudouin. The central service for protection against ionizing radiotation has been following up the situation on a daily basis since the Chernobyl power station accident. This was done through tests on more than 300 samples of atmospheric dust carried by airplanes, vegetables, soil, milk, fish, river water, drinking water and rain water. Today everything is normal; there is nothing to fear.

Nuclear Specialist Meets with Officials in Moscow

LD081450 Paris Domestic Service in French
1100 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpts] Several countries have sent specialists to Moscow either to help their Soviet colleagues or to meet to reassure their countrymen. Thus the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has delegated to the spot Henri Paul Jammet, a specialist in nuclear contamination problems. He confirmed to Ulysse Gosset that he is in Moscow to try to reassure the French people there:

[Begin recording] [Jammet] The minister's concern is that French communities in a certain number of countries need to be informed and possibly to be reassured on what is going on as far as radioactivity is concerned.

[Gosset] What did you say to the French people here in Moscow in order to reassure them?

[Jammet] The meeting lasted a very long time. I explained to them what the risks are and also gave them points of reference in so they can understand the implications.

[Gosset] And do you think that your intervention has reassured the French people in Moscow?

[Jammet] I hope so. [end recording]

OECD Nuclear Safety Experts Meet 9 May in Paris

AU091058 Paris AFP in English
1052 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 9 (AFP) — Nuclear safety experts from countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) were to discuss here Friday the consequences in their 24 countries of the Soviet nuclear power plant disaster in Chernobyl, an OECD communique said here.

The experts were summoned by OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency committee on safety at nuclear installations, the communique said, adding that the committee would hold a news conference Friday afternoon.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Chancellor Kohl on Chernobyl, Tokyo Summit

DW071155 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1700 GMT 6 May 86

[Interview with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl by correspondent Gustav Trampe in Tokyo on 6 May, from the "Heute" newscast — recorded]

[Text][Trampe] Mr Federal Chancellor: To start with, one very important subject for discussion within the framework of the political dialogue was the problem of security in the field of nuclear economy. You yourself have attached special importance to the discussion of reactor security. Will you continue pushing the issue?

[Kohl] Certainly. It would have been completely unrealistic if we had come together here in Tokyo a few days after the reactor accident in Chernobyl in the Soviet Union and not discussed that topic in detail. It is a topic that worries millions of people in East and West. I myself advanced the formulations. I thought that first of all we ought to express our sympathy to those directly concerned and that we should offer the Soviet Union medical and technical assistance, whenever requested to do so. That goes without saying. However, the third point, we should clearly call upon the Soviet Union to inform us about the facts, to reveal what happened so that we can get an idea of the proportions of the accident. The fourth point, which in view of the future is of course the most important one, is that we must draw the proper conclusions and call on all nations that build and operate reactors to cooperate closely in the competent international authority. That means that technical data and security precautions should be made known. It goes without saying that we are willing to do so. That is no problem. Everybody must be able to assess whether or not operating reactors have the high security standard which we must insist upon. As I said before, our position is that the citizen's security and health must be given precedence. All of us who met here agree that we will have to operate nuclear power plants in the future. It is in- dispensable.

[Trampe] None of the participants raised any objection?

[Kohl] None of them. However, we all agree that security standards have to be very high.

[Trampe] The Soviet Union has been criticized relatively mildly because of the reactor disaster in the Ukraine. Did that happen in the interest of East-West relations? Are East-West relations affected by the reactor accident?

[Kohl] I think — to answer the first part of your question — that is not the point. I myself said, and others agreed, that whenever an accident occurs in private life we do not ask whose fault it is, but how can we help. Later we have to pose the question of responsibility, or failure. That problem is being discussed now, but at the moment we have to minimize the risks. That has nothing to do with East-West relations — if you think of the Geneva negotiations, for instance. They must go on, and we consider it extremely desirable that General Secretary Gorbachev visit the United States this year and that we — after the first talks in Geneva last year — can make some progress toward disarmament and detente. That will be difficult, but I see a chance to take steps in that direction.

[Trampe] World economic summit, economic policy — many countries were criticized. The Americans, without naming them, are asked to reduce the budgetary deficit, the Japanese are expected to open their market. What do others expect from us?

[Kohl] I think, we are in a very favorable position. We talked about the tasks for the year when we met in Bonn last year. That year is over now. We have a brillant balance. We are number one among industrial nations regarding almost all economically interesting data.

[Trampe] Number one often serves as a locomotive to pull the world economy. Is that expected of us?

[Kohl] That was not a topic at all. The term did not come up. As I said before, I cannot get used to such a policy.

Criticizes 'Limited' USSR Information

LD091119 Hamburg DPA in German 1021 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpts] Bonn, 9 May (DPA) — The Federal Cabinet met for an unscheduled session chaired by Federal Chancellor Kohl Friday noon to discuss the Soviet reactor accident and its consequences. It is expected in Bonn that a decision of general principle for an international initiative to safeguard a high standard of safety for all nuclear power stations will be reached. The agenda also includes plan for immediate aid to the German farmers and vegetable growers who are affected by restrictions.

At the opening of the ADAC [FRG Automobile Club] general assembly earlier in Frankfurt [9 May], Kohl stressed that there is no immediate danger to federal citizens as a result of the reactor accident. He levelled strong criticism against the limited information from the Soviet authorities. The safety of nuclear technology should be put on the agenda of East-West dialogue.

Following a widespread drop in radioactivity in the air to natural radioactivity levels, controversy about the consequences for harvests of the relatively high concentration of radioactivity in the soil looms ahead. The Federation for Environmental and Nature Protection of Germany expressed serious concern at a news conference on Friday that this year's harvest of cereals, vegetables and fruit may be unusable due to radioactive contamination. The Interior Ministry reacted to this by accusing the federation of "frivolous and unfounded claims" and referred to statements to the contrary by the Radiation Protection Board.

Soviet Envoy Summoned Over 'Secrecy' on Damage

LD051525 Hamburg DPA in German 1407 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 5 May (DPA) — The Foreign Ministry sent doctors with Geiger counters to German Embassies in the Warsaw Pact

countries that might be contaminated. However, so far no contamination has been reported. Vladislav Tcretskov, Soviet charge d'affaires in Bonn, was summoned for the third time to the Foreign Ministry on Monday afternoon, to ascertain in yet another talk the extent of the danger.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that the Soviet diplomat was questioned "most emphatically." This phrase makes clear the pent-up anger diplomatic circles have expressed, also in talks with journalists, about the continuing secrecy exercised by the Soviets. In this connection Bonn praised the good and cooperative exchange of data with Hungary.

Government To Send Two Decontamination Vehicles
LD061011 Hamburg DPA in German
0935 GMT 6 May 86

[Excerpt] Bonn, 6 May (DPA) — The Soviet Trade mission in Cologne intends to buy or hire two unmanned special vehicles from the Nuclear-Technical Auxiliary Service [Kerntechnische Hilfsdienst] to be used for work on the reactor in Chernobyl. Reliable sources told DPA today that Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann (CUS) has replied positively to an Auxiliary Service enquiry on whether the Federal Government would approve sending these vehicles to the Soviet Union for humanitarian reasons.

The vehicles concerned are two remote-controlled front-end loaders that can be operated from a distance of one kilometer. The special vehicles are intended for use in reactor plants which are contaminated after accidents and which individuals are unable to enter. The Nuclear-Technical Auxiliary Service has this equipment at Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, near Karlsruhe.

Bundestag Interior Committee To Discuss Incident
DW051145 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German
1100 GMT 5 May 86

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Responding to a demand by the Greens, the Bundestag Interior Committee will convene this afternoon for a special meeting to discuss the effects of the reactor accident on the FRG. While relatively high air radioactivity levels are still being registered in Essen, Regensburg, and Munich, data at other measuring points are nearly back to normal levels.

Following the rainfall over the weekend soil radio activity has increased. Spot checks of vegetables exceed permissible levels tenfold. The Radiation Protection Commission therefore has again warned against consuming leafy vegetables and fresh milk. In some federal laender protective precautions have been enhanced. Thus in Hamburg, it is being left up to parents to decide whether they want to send their children to school. On the Berlin wholesale market additional foodstuffs control points have been set up.

Zagladin Says Radiation Leak 'Practically Stopped'
LD071038 Hamburg DPA in German
1008 GMT 7 May 86

[Excerpt] Oldenburg, 7 May (DPA) — According to Vadim Zagladin, member of the CPSU Central Committee, at the time of the explosion the Chernobyl reactor had already been out of operation for several days undergoing repair work. Zagladin, who was in Oldenburg for a DKP event on Tuesday evening [6 May], told DPA that less radiation was therefore released then would have been expected from a functioning reactor. The release of radiation, which escaped in three waves, has now been "practically stopped," Zagladin said. He added that all the nuclear power stations in the USSR apart from Chernobyl continue to operate. In contrast, the London *FINANCIAL TIMES* has reported that all nuclear power stations of the Chernobyl type have been turned off.

Bundestag President Jenninger Meets Yeltsin
DW071310 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German
1100 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] This morning Moscow party chief Yeltsin met with Bundestag President Jenninger. The main topic was the reactor accident in Chernobyl. During the talk lasting for 1 and 1/2 hours an hour, Yeltsin said that the accident could be a starting point for international cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy. Before, Jenninger had criticized the inefficient information policy of the Soviet Union in connection with the reactor accident. He pointed out that the countries affected by radioactive fallout were confronted with great problems due to that attitude.

Yeltsin on More Nuclear Cooperation
LD071402 Hamburg DPA in German
1326 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 7 May (DPA) — The USSR is prepared to deepen cooperation with Bonn in the sphere of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, according to [CPSU] Central Committee member Boris Yeltsin. The accident in the Ukrainian reactor can also provide impetus for seeking more common ground [Gemeinsamkeiten] in the spheres of security, disarmament and arms control, Yeltsin stated in a talk with Bundestag President Philipp Jenninger (CDU) in Bonn today. He stressed the need to learn from this incident and to look together for ways of ensuring information at an early stage about any future cases.

On behalf of all party groups in the Bundestag Jenninger gave his visitor the request to the USSR to inform all the neighboring countries as quickly and extensively as possible on the effects of the accident. Yeltsin, who is also a candidate member of the Politburo and the new party chief of the city of Moscow and is currently on a visit to the Federal Republic, promised to pass on this request.

Greens Criticize Yeltsin

DW071234 Mainz ZDF Telvision Network in German 1100 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] The Greens have strongly criticized the Soviet Union in connection with the reactor accident in Chernobyl. Members of the Greens' Federal Executive Board and Bundestag parliamentary group last night had talks with Moscow party chief Yeltsin and Soviet Ambassador to Bonn Kvitsinskiy. According to a party statement the Greens were confronted with palliating and incredible cynism on the part of their Soviet interlocuters when they inquired about the health consequences for the population.

USSR Embassy Attacks 'Campaigns' on Chernobyl

LD061251 Hamburg DPA in German 1130 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 6 May (DPA) — The Soviet Union has accused "certain circles" in the Federal Republic of trying to misuse the reactor accident in the Ukraine for "dirty political objectives and the fanning of hostile propagandist campaigns" against its country. The objective of such campaigns is to divert attention from the efforts at a complete ban and deterrence of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons, a statement issued by the Soviet Embassy in Bonn on Tuesday says. This conduct is "irreconcilable" with the spirit of detente and the desire to maintain good-neighborly relations as repeatedly stated by Bonn, it was added by way of warning.

The accusations made by the German side about Moscow's "inadequate information policy" about the accident were rejected in the statement as "totally groundless." The USSR provided Bonn and the governments of other states with the "necessary information." Other states and their populations were not in jeopardy. This assessment is shared also by official German authorities who said that there was not and is not any danger to the population.

It emerges from the statement that work to overcome the consequences of the accident and to help those affected is continuing at and near the Chernobyl power station. This work is being done in organized form and with the help of the requisite means. The radioactive levels have dropped to "a considerable extent" and are continuing to fall.

The Soviet Embassy statement referred to a talk between Charge d'Affaires Vladislav Teretskov and representatives of the Foreign Ministry on Monday. This was the third time that Teretskov had called on the Foreign Ministry since the reactor accident. It was learned in Bonn that he had available only the official reports of the official Soviet TASS news agency. The Foreign Ministry said afterwards that efforts at continuing contacts with the Soviets have not yet yielded information on the total effects of the accident.

Radioactivity Readings Increase in Marburg Area

LD051718 Hamburg DPA in German 1533 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Marburg, 5 May (DPA) — Surface pollution with radioactive materials rose to eight times the permissible limit in Marburg today. This was stated by Marburg nuclear physicist Professor Dr Horst Kuni. Measurements by physicists from Philipps University produced readings of 20,000-25,000 Becquerels a square meter, the scientist said. In addition to the recommendations of the Hesse Social Affairs Ministry, the local council of Marburg-Biedenkopf Kreis advised all schools and kindergartens not to allow children to play outside and not to use school outdoor sports grounds.

The Executive Council of Hesse Youth Sports Organization recommended sports associations in the land to cancel for the time being all children's and youth events outdoors and also to close their own sports grounds. Since there were neither precise details of figures nor binding statements about possible dangers to health, caution required that contact with the ground on open-air surfaces should be restricted. In addition to playing fields and open-air swimming pools, areas of grass and cinder tracks at sports grounds are among the endangered areas.

Border Controls Restrict Meat, Vegetable Imports

LD051556 Hamburg DPA in German 1450 GMT 5 May 86

[Excerpts] Hamburg, 5 May (DPA) — By midday on Monday, about 100 trucks had been checked in the process inspecting meat, vegetables, and fresh milk at the border crossing in Berlin. Thirteen trucks with vegetables from Poland and also some from the Federal Republic had been turned back. Only fresh meat imported from the Eastern bloc states was checked in Lower Saxony. The land government recommended that these states not transport any more fresh meat to Lower Saxony for now. At the central market in Hamburg, three trucks with Chinese cabbage from Hungary are standing and are not being allowed to unload. The police economic control service took possession of leaf vegetables such as mangels, savoy cabbage, spinach, chives, and corn salad [as received] at the Mannheim central market.

One truck from the CSSR and two from the USSR were turned back at the Helmstedt border post on Monday as they registered too high a level of radiation.

DPA Reports Vegetables Polluted in Saarland

LD061511 Hamburg DPA in German 1407 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Saarbruecken, 6 May (DPA) — Pollution levels of up to 2,100 Becquerels of Iodine-131 were registered in the Saarland today for leeks and other vegetables. Cesium pollution was reported registered at 500 Becquerels in Saarbruecken.

Berlin Conference Citicizes USSR Information Policy
LD021653 Hamburg DPA in German
1553 GMT 02 May 86

[Text] Berlin, 2 May (DPA) — Local politicians at the 16th European General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities in Berlin have criticized Soviet information policy in connection with the accident at the nuclear power station of Chernobyl near Kiev. Josef Hofmann, international president of the council, said to journalists at the close of the 4-day congress today (Friday) that there was unanimity among the "representatives of the citizens of Europe" that the "highest possible security status" must be required for nuclear power stations. Nuclear power stations without this security standard should be closed down. Delegates in the "Urban Planning and Environmental Protection" working group backed "binding agreements on security policy" for Europe in this context.

Press Views Tokyo Reaction to Chernobyl
DW061305 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German
0505 GMT 06 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Commentators today deal with the world economic summit in Tokyo, including the summit's reaction to the Chernobyl accident.

NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG of Essen writes: What conclusions will the summit participants draw from Chernobyl? Because they are the most highly advanced industrialized nations, it was a matter of course for them to say yes to nuclear energy, assuming correct handling. Yet each country bears sole responsibility for its own nuclear power plants. In case of nuclear emergencies,information is supposed to be immediately available in the future, especially if cross-border consequences are imminent. Nobody had bargained on wind. The Tokyo appeal to the USSR to provide more information and to broaden nuclear energy consultations is clear, but not unequivocal. mutual inspection of nuclear plants is neither demanded nor offered — nobody wants to permit the other to see everything he has in his nuclear pot. It involves more than just current from the wall socket.

HESSISCHE NIEDERSAECHSISCHE ALLGEMEINE of Kassel writes: it was to be expected that sharp words were directed at the USSR from Tokyo. They could not have been sharp enough. The Kremlin has made every nation insecure and has done them harm with its evasive information policy after the reactor catastrophe. The West's reaction is poor, however. instead of demanding the obligatory announcement of all future failures and accidents in nuclear power plants, a mere exchange of information is being recommended. Instead of demanding international minimum standards for reactor security, there is only talk of subsequent accident analysis. The summit participants did not even consider the advisability of using nuclear technology.

The *LUDWIGSHAFEN RHEINPFALZ* writes: Inquiring in Tokyo what the summit meeting will really change and what would be considered a success, is the wrong way of posing the question. A former observer said the participants at the summit were like physicists discovering charged particles. With their declaration against terrorism and about reactor security, the state and government chiefs have made it clear that they are willing to discuss the worries of the people in their states, which have democratic constitutions. That should not be underestimated. it is always a temptation to resort to being noncommittal so as to obscure conflicting interests. Considerable differences of opinion cropped up regarding the declaration on terrorism, the newspaper comments.

KARLSRUHE BADISCHE NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN writes: The respectable compromise agreed upon about the problem of terrorism is not bad at all, because the joint catalogue of measures does not shrink from naming Libya. Thanks to President Reagan's determination, France and Italy finally joined the American position, the newspaper concludes.

KOELNISCHE RUNDSCHAU states: In view of the worries and personal problems that many people are having after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the failure of state information policy, the general political statements delivered by Western government chiefs in Tokyo cannot but provoke a lack of understan- ding. Was that really all, many people will ask with irritation and astonishment, responsible leaders of the most important industrial states managed to do in view of the present international situation, which is obviously and in the true sense of the word out of control and confusing, the newspaper writes.

GREECE

Protest Lodged for Tourists Forced on Kiev Visit
NC081429 Paris AFP in English
1404 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Athens, May 8 (AFP) — Greece has made an official protest to the Soviet Union over an incident in which 40 Greek tourists were taken against their wills on a trip to Kiev, not far from the site of the Soviet nuclear accident, a government spokesman said on Thursday.

Official spokesman Andonis Kourtis said the tourists had asked that a scheduled trip to the Ukrainian city, part of their package tour, be omitted from the itinerary because of the danger of radiation.

However the holidaymakers were taken there anyway, under circumstances which have still not been made clear, he added.

The tour was organised by "Lev-Tours", an affiliate of the Soviet tourist organisation "Sputnik".

Mr. Kourtis said the Greek ambassador to the Soviet Union had delivered a protest to the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

IBERIAN PENINSULA

Iodine, Caesium Traces Found; No Danger

LD082027 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The consequences in Spain of the Chernobyl nuclear accident — The autonomous government of Catalonia has admitted that the particles of radioactive iodine detected in the area could enter the food chain.

Traces of iodine in grass and caesium in milk have been detected in Portugal.

A source at the Industry Ministry said, however, that the levels of those substances are very low, without biological significance, and pose no threat to health.

Radioactive Iodine Found in Urine Samples

NC081211 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Barcelona, Spain, May 8 (AFP) — A doctor here has found traces of radioactive iodine in urine samples taken from 12 people — including himself — in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union.

Doctor Eduard Rodriguez Farre, a member of Spain's Nuclear Safety Council, made the tests after discovering radioactive Iodine-131 in rain which fell here Saturday.

Dr Rodriguez Farre said there was ten times the normal level of radioactivity in the rainwater.

ITALY

Agricultural Losses Costly; Protest March Planned

AU081526 Rome ANSA in English 0810 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, May 7 — The damage wreaked on Italian agriculture by the Health Ministry's ban on the sale of leaf vegetables for a fortnight starting Saturday has cost 3.3 million dollars so far, estimates from the country's market gardeners said Wednesday.

The ministerial order also banned selling fresh milk for feeding to children of up to ten. As a result, even adult milk consumers have given up drinking milk completely, leaving thousands upon thousands of literes unsold and unsaleable.

Two leading Italian milk firms, Parmalat and Polenghi, have now said they will buy in the unsold milk and treat it into [as received] for long preservation once they have checked out that the level of radioacticity is normal. In the southern region of Calabria, strawberry growers are handing out scores of tons of strawberries free in protest against the Health Ministry's measures, which they claim have set off a psychosis leading Italians to shun many vegetables and fruits not included in the ban.

At the frontiers, some food cargos are being sent back, especially those arriving from Eastern Europe. In Parliament, Agriculture Minister Filippo Maria Pandolfi said more than 300 centers are prepared to buy the banned vegetables.

Meanwhile, Italian "Greens", or those of similar views, ranging from the proletarian democrats to the radicals and young Communists, said their antinuclear march on Saturday will pass in front of the Soviet Embassy.

The march is to protest against the Chernobyl disaster and to demand more rigorous security at Italian nuclear power stations.

SWEDEN

Birgitta Dahl on Chernobyl, Domestic Nuclear Program

PM021040 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 30 Apr 86 p 7

[TIDNINGARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA report: "Dahl Demands Better Answers From Moscow"]

[Text] Oskarshamn — Energy and Environment Minister Birgitta Dahl assumes that safety at Soviet nuclear powers stations will be increased after the accident at Chernobyl, north of Kiev.

Birgitta Dahl has demanded that the Soviet Union answer a number of questions about what sort of accident it was that happened, and yesterday instructed the Swedish ambassador in Moscow both to put the questions to the Soviet authorities and to collect the answers, TIDNINGARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA reports.

Earlier Swedish pressure to persuade the Soviet Union to improve safety at its nuclear power stations has not "been answered satisfactorily," and how relations between Sweden and the Soviet Union will be in the future depends on the Soviet response.

Birgitta Dahl said this at a press conference in Oskarshamn before she opened CLAB, the interim storage facility for nuclear waste.

The energy minister assumes that in the future the Soviet Union will report any faults at its nuclear power stations to the IAEA. She hoped that the accident will lead to a situation in which Sweden's call for a distinction between civilian and military exploitation of nuclear power will be heeded.

For if all countries distinguish between the two areas there could then also be international inspection and checks on civilian installations and there would perhaps be no repeat of an accident similar to the one which has happened in the Soviet Union, the energy minister said.

She pointed out that the accident has shown the risks of nuclear power "in a frightening way," and the energy minister said that she thinks that the accident will be a lesson for those who "today speak out far too irresponsibly in favor of more nuclear power." On the other hand Birgitta Dahl did not think that the Soviet

accident gives the Danes the right to demand that the Barseback nuclear power station be closed.

"Barseback is one of the world's safest nuclear power stations and cannot be compared at all with the Soviet power station. Among other things there is a filter to deal with possible leaks. In the Soviet power stations there is no protection at all around the reactor," Birgitta Dahl said.

She also pointed to the information agreement reached between the Swedish and Danish governments which means that the Swedish Government must supply the Danish Government with all existing information about the running, problems, and economic aspects of the Barseback power station.

Birgitta Dahl said that the accident in the Soviet Union does not necessarily mean that Barseback will be the first Swedish nuclear power station to be closed. However, the energy minister reiterated her view that Barseback's location, its closeness to the major urban areas of Malmo and Copenhagen, is one of the points which will be taken into consideration in the decision about which nuclear power station will be closed first.

The energy minister was surprised that the Finnish Government did not warn the Swedish Government when the first radioactive fallout arrived in Finland. Birgitta Dahl did not know, however, why the Finnish Government had not given a warning.

The energy minister pointed out that everyone, authorities as well as representatives of the nuclear power enterprises, is analyzing the evacuation of the nuclear power station at Forsmark.

Chernobyl-Type Reactor Operating in Lithuania
LD081701 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1600 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] As recently as last Sunday, a reactor of the same type as the one that suffered the accident at Chernobyl was still operating, according to new satellite pictures taken today, which are now being studied by the Swedish Atomic Energy Board. The reactor is just outside the town of Ignalina in Lithuania, and is the Soviet reactor which is closest to Sweden. The distance from the Swedish coast is barely 50 miles [Swedish mile equals 10 kilometers]

Finland Reportedly Maintains Silence Over Chernobyl
LD081202 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Ever since the Chernobyl nuclear accident occurred almost 2 weeks ago, all local authorities in Finland have had a muzzle put on them. No information about measurements of radioactivity have been allowed out. The fire chief in Helsinki, who is responsible for protecting the populace here, said at a press conference yesterday that the reason for the scanty information is that permission was quite simply not given to supply information.

The Ministry of the Interior has put this information ban into force and all questions are referred to the central Government office responsible for radiation safety. There is no reason to provide information; it will only create unnecessary unease, minister of the Interior Kaisa Raatikainen has said and this information policy has subsequently permeated Finnish society. In addition, the sluggishness which is characteristic of Finnish government offices generally and the civil servants' strike which is going on now, have meant that the information that has come was late and sometimes also contradictory.

Finnish mass media have also observed restraint concerning the monitoring of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. As recently as yesterday a directive went out from the director general of the Finnish Broadcasting Company to all news offices in radio and television, urging sense and restraint.

The political silence has also been almost total. The question has been passed between ministers like a hot potato. For example, Finland did not join the other nordic countries' sharp demands for better information from the Soviet authorities. This seems especially strange considering that Finnish emergency plans are precisely built on the assumption that information will be received if an accident is happening or has happened.

Instead, Finland has observed the silence which has become the hallmark of the Finnish Government's foreign policy, especially when the Soviet Union is involved — the phenomenon which in the west has been called Finlandization. Finland's Government, in connection with the nuclear accident, has done nothing to wash away this impression; on the contrary, the impression of the country that remains silent instead of talking has been reinforced. This would have been a suitable opportunity to show proof of the independent foreign policy which in other contexts they praise themselves for — but they never took that opportunity.

National Radiation Levels Continue Falling
LD081225 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The measurements by the Institute of Radiation protection around the country of radioactivity following the Soviet nuclear power accident indicate the levels are continuing to fall. Grass samples taken on Gotland show that radiation on the ground there has declined sharply, and Gotland farmers can therefore expect to be able to let their cows graze any day now.

SWITZERLAND

Zurich Paper Reports on 'Strongest' Pollution
DW071209 Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 7 May 86 p 25

[SDA report: "Strongest Pollution Ever Measured in Switzerland"]

[Excerpt] Bern 5 May, (SDA) — Switzerland experiences at present after the Chernobyl accident the strongest pollution ever. However, according to experts, the registered pollution of the air,

the soil, and foodstuff is still far below the critical limits. On Monday, radioactive pollution increased in southern Switzerland, while a decrease was noted in northern Switzerland. Hansjuerg Weder, the Basel Independents' Alliance (LDU) national councillor, demanded an immediate meeting of the national council's energy commission. The Action Committee Against Nuclear Powerplants of northern Switzerland demanded an immediate construction stop of powerplants.

UNITED KINGDOM

MP's Debate Ban on E. Europe Food Imports

LD081744 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1705 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The government sought to calm fears in the commons today that foodstuffs contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster might arrive in Britain through a "loophole" in the EEC's proposed ban on imports. MPs from both sides of the house complained that East Germany should have been included in the import ban on certain foods from countries within 1,000 kilometres of the stricken Soviet reactor. But junior foreign office minister, Mr Tim Eggar, pointed out that the greater part of the German Democratic Republic was outside the area of the ban and it would be for West Germany to check the origin of foodstuffs coming across its frontiers. He assured MPs: "If the West German Government is convinced that they can bring in the necessary measures to ensure the ban is followed through, we should have no reason to doubt them."

Answering an emergency question, Mr Eggar said provisional agreement had been reached on a temporary ban on the import of certain foods from the USSR, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Mr Eggar said the ban, if formally approved, would apply from Saturday and run until May 31 as a "short term precautionary measure." He added: "We will be keeping the ban under systematic review as new scientific evidence comes in during the course of the next few weeks."

Tory Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East) demanded: "How can you justify the exclusion of East Germany from the ban, when parts of East Germany are much nearer to the disaster than parts of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia?" Trade from East Germany consistently "slipped through" to the West because of the Inner-German Trade Agreement, he claimed.

"If there is a real problem of contaminated food reaching our constituents, why on earth should we leave this huge loophole? If there is not a real problem, as suggested by the World Health Organisation, isn't this a rather silly public relations ploy," Mr Taylor declared.

Mr Eggar said the ban would have direct effects throughout the European Community. "It would be up to the East German authorities to give effect, in practice, to the ban."

Mr Eggar said the ban was expected to come into effect at midday on Saturday. "But obviously health authorities in community countries will be keeping a close watch on the products that are already here." The ban would include fresh meat and offal from Eastern European countries.

Labour's Dr Mark Hughes (City of Durham), protested that the trade in meat and vegetables between East and West Germany left a "loophole" which was not closed by the agreement. "Therefore my constituents and the whole of the British community are left at risk, which is unacceptable," he said. But Mr Eggar replied "you must be careful not to exaggerate the fears and stir up concerns which really are not justified. The Community countries responsible for imports from other countries will be responsible for checking the origin of the goods that come in."

Mr Ralph Howell (C North Norfolk) said Mr Eggar had convinced nobody with his answers and demanded: "Why can't this ban come into operation immediately?"

Mr Eggar said the EEC had acted "extremely rapidly," but under procedural rules the ban could not come into effect until all the countries had given their agreement, probably tomorrow.

For the opposition, Mr Brynmor John, asked: "How will West Germany know whether food routed through East Germany is of East German origin? They will only have the word of another government to go on. It's not fair to the West German Government itself."

Pressed further by Mr Charles Kennedy (SDP Ross, Cromarty and SKYE), Mr Eggar said: "There really is no loophole." He was sure that the West German Government would be taking the "necessary precautions".

The Commons will debate civil nuclear matters next Tuesday, leader of the house Mr John Biffen announced to MPs.

Earlier, agriculture minister of state Mr John Selwyn Gummer warned MPs against spreading "alarm and despondency" over the effects of radioactivity levels. "There are two ways in which we do no service to the public — the first is to cover up that which has happened, as the russians, the other is to spread alarm and despondency when it is totally unnecessary," he said at question time. He was replying to a protest from Labour's Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington) that MPs had not seen figures from the National Radiological Protection board to explain their statement that radioactivity levels are now 100 times lower than last weekend.

Junior Agricultural Minister Mrs Peggy Fenner conceded in reply to Liberal Mr Richard Livsey (Brecon and Radnor) that Ministry of Agriculture figures on radioactivity levels in milk were "very marginally different" from those released by the NRPB. "They have tested in fewer testing points than we have," said Mrs Fenner.

Later in exchanges on her commons statement on the Tokyo summit Mrs Thatcher made clear that any British help to the Soviet Union over the Chernobyl disaster would be without conditions. She told Mr David Crouch (Canterbury): "We shall respond to any assistance for which we are asked, and have responded in so far as we have been asked. As far as I am aware, there are no conditions attached to our offer. It is our intention

and our wish to be as helpful as possible under these circumstances."

Mr Tony Benn (Lab Chesterfield) asked if Mrs Thatcher had considered making available common market food surpluses to the Russians "at a time when their own food supplies have been badly affected by the tragedy at Chernobyl".

The prime minister replied that food surpluses regularly found their way to the Soviet Union. "Indeed that is often the cause of why I am questioned in this house about the cheap rates at which they go to the Soviet Union."

The prime minister underlined her commitment to Britain's nuclear power industry, as she rejected a claim from SDLP leader Mr John Hume (Foyle) that the risk of more accidents "removes all possible justification" for its development. She told him: "provided we can keep up our careful monitoring of design, manufacturing, operational work and maintenance — and our excellent nuclear inspectorate — we can continue to have confidence in this industry."

Howe Warns Against Using Chernobyl as Propaganda
LD041408 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1112 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Foreign Secretary Sir Goeffrey Howe today warned against using the Chernobyl disaster to step up anti Soviet propaganda. He called instead for the West to use the tragedy to encourage greater openness from the Soviet leadership. It is not an occasion for turning a human tragedy into a political football," Sir Goeffrey said on BBC Radio 4's World This Weekend programme today. [no opening quotation marks as received]

Speaking from Tokyo where he is attending the world economic summit, he added: "I think the summit will express the very wide concern about the Soviet failure to deal openly with its neighbors about what has been going on. There is great anxiety that this should be a matter of international candour and co-operation. But I hope that very natural expression of anxiety will not spill over to become a propaganda campaign. It is very important for us to encourage the Soviet Union to do the right thing vis-a-vis the rest of the world and its own citizens."

Sir Geoffrey added: "I think it is very important to use this as an occasion for learning lessons which can be learnt internationally from taking the hazards and worries about these hazards over nuclear energy seriously."

Sir Geoffrey said that it was port of the Soviet politic system and of the country's history that it was "a very secretive closed society."

"A society that does not tell its people about the hazards of nuclear energy is bound to find it difficult to share its view of those hazards with the rest of the world. [no end quotation marks as received]

Sir Geoffrey said that if the Soviet Union did not learn the lessons from this tragedy it could have a dmaaging knock-on effect on arms control talks. "If they fail to do so it is bound to increase anxiety over their commitment to verification of the arms control process. I hope that Mr Gorbachev, thinking about all these things carefully, will see the importance for him in the arms control context as well as the human relations, international good neighbours context, of candour and disclosure."

Labour Leader Asks Gorbachev for Details
LD012127 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2022 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Labour leader Mr Neil Kinnock disclosed today that he has called on Mr Gorbachev to provide maximum information about the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster.

In a letter to the Soviet Leader, Mr Kinnock said: "While realising that the emergency response by our government and authorities to this incident must preoccupy you, I do strongly urge that the Soviet Union provides maximum information on the origin, space and implications of the emission.

"This candour is essential both to prevent unnecessary alarm and to provide expert opinion in other countries with a basis for making their response."

Mr Kinnock told him there was an "immediate readiness" among nuclear experts in Britain to provide assistance in dealing with the emergency.

Radiation Levels Around Nation Summarized
LD082024 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1921 GMT 8 May 86

[By Don Philpott, PA agriculture correspondent]

[Text] British weather experts believe a radioactive plume is still being emitted from the damaged Chernobyl nuclear power station.

A round-the-clock watch is being mounted by weathermen in Britain in case the wind changes and more radioactivity is swept towards the UK.

"As far as we know, the radioactive plume is still being emitted," said a spokesman for the Meteorological Office.

"We are not relaxing our guard and are keeping a continuous watch, day and night, on the winds over this part of Russia."

At the moment winds are light over Chernobyl, in the Ukraine, and the radioactivity is being carried over Siberia, posing no threat to Britain.

The rain cloud, containing very low levels of radiation, which returned to Britain on Wednesday has now been blown out over the North Sea, and the UK is likely to be in a westerly wind pattern for the next few days.

"The winds are now blowing in clean air from over the Atlantic," the spokesman said.

Figures issued tonight by the Department of the Environment showed that radioactivity levels in Britain have fallen sharply since the weekend, and are now nowhere near the level at which precautions might have to be taken.

A spokesman said concentrations of radioactivity in milk were 200 times the normal level in the north of England and 50 times the normal level in the south.

But they would have to be 2,000 times the normal level before there was any need for concern.

In air, the concentration was twice the normal level in the north, but back to normal in the south. Concern would be caused at 50,000 times the normal level.

Concentrations in water were less than five times normal, while no action would be necessary at up to 2,400 times normal levels.

The London Residuary Body said tonight that scientists monitoring the fall-out over the capital had calculated that during the time the radioactive cloud was over head, personal intake would have increased by 40 percent of normal background levels.

This was equal to an increase of only 0.2 percent of the annual average natural background intake, it said.

In Northern Ireland, a government statement said there was no cause for concern over radioactivity levels in the air, water supplies, or fresh milk.

All levels were safe and the trend was downward, the statement said.

But at Winsford, Cheshire, the mayor banned supplies of milk to 13 schools with 1,280 pupils under the age of seven because of radiation fears.

Mayor Mr David Tomlinson said: "Although the amount of radiation in the milk is well below the safety limit, it is better to be safe than sorry.

"I don't think the town council should subject children to any danger, however remote, knowing that the radiation level was 25 times higher than normal."

Winsford is one of the few local authorities in the area to supply milk to young children.

Rainwater contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster has brought an unexpected problem to the Sellafield nuclear processing plant — it keeps triggering radiation alarms.

A British nuclear fuels spokesman said the rain — containing up to 10 times normal levels of radiation — had triggered alarms at the plant several times.

"It has meant we have had to treat the rainwater in our own decontamination plant before releasing it outside the plant," he said. "This just proves how good our safety system is."

The government worked in the Commons tonight to calm some MPs' fears that contaminated foods from the Eastern bloc could arrive in Britain — because of a "loophole" in the EEC's proposed ban on imports — by being transported through East Germany.

Junior Foreign Office Minister Mr Tim Eggar said the greater part of East Germany was outside the range of the ban, which affects countries within 1,000 kilometres of Chernobyl.

It was also the responsibility of West Germany to check the origin of foods crossing its frontiers.

He said in answer to an emergency question that provisional agreement had been reached on a temporary ban on some foods from the USSR, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia.

British Groups Note Many Nuclear Plants 'Unsafe'
LD072059 Moscow TASS in English
1921 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] London May 7 TASS — Many British atomic power plants are not safe from the point of view of their exploitation, and at any moment accidents can take place ithere that would bring about most serious consequences.

This warning was issued by representatives of the "Greenpeace" and "The Friends of the Earth" organizations who deal with problems of environmental protection. Specifically, they pointed out at a press conference here today that the equipment installed at the atomic power plants was past its service life or was close to its end. It was emphasized at the press conference that there should be no room for self-indulgence.

Participants in the press confernce accused the authorities of concealing from the British public ithe truth about a rather alarming situation at atomic power plants.